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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

EXTENDED SATURDAY SECTION

Disgraced Aitken holds secret Saudi talks to save nurses



Aitken: "believes there will be no execution"

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND DANIEL MCGORRY

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Cabinet minister who lost a libel action against *The Guardian* and *Granada's World in Action* earlier this year, has agreed to act as a secret intermediary with members of the Saudi royal family over the fate of two British nurses.

His involvement, following an approach by the British Embassy in Riyadh, emerged yesterday, as Lucille McLaughlan and Deborah Parry, sent handwritten notes from their prison cells, revealing how they were forced to agree to "an

abhorrent" blood money deal with the brother of murder victim Yvonne Gilford. In her letter, McLaughlan refers to Frank Gilford as a "mercenary". The women argue that the \$1.2 million (£750,000) deal should all have gone to charity, not the \$700,000 which Mr Gilford is insisting goes to his family.

The Embassy has been trying to seek assurances from the Saudi Government over the nurses' sentences and Mr Aitken is acknowledged to have unrivalled contacts in the Saudi royal family and government. The decision to enrol the services of Mr Aitken followed the

uproar over the sentencing of McLaughlan to 500 lashes and eight years' imprisonment, and the unconfirmed report that Parry had been sentenced to death.

Mr Aitken, who is currently in London, is understood to have contacted senior Saudi figures already and is said to be convinced that there will be no execution and that there is only a remote chance that the flogging sentence will be carried out. He developed his close ties with the Saudis through his business interests over many years.

It is expected that the case of the two nurses will eventually end up on the desk of King Fahd for his

consideration. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will be seeing his Saudi counterpart in New York today. One diplomatic source said: "The lower sharia courts traditionally produce very severe sentences but any cases involving Westerners always go to the king."

In confidential notes to Sir Roger Carrick, British High Commissioner in Australia, McLaughlan and Parry have protested their innocence over any involvement in the murder of Yvonne Gilford and have also said they are opposed to paying her brother any money. The two appeared united in their dismay that Mr Gilford would only agree to

the Saudi authorities disclosing all the evidence of the murder investigation after he had been paid \$1.2 million, of which \$500,000 is to go to a children's hospital.

Salah al-Hejailan, their Saudi lawyer, said last night he agreed to reveal their confidential letters to *The Times* after Mr Gilford denied offering and then agreeing the clemency deal. He also released documents from Mr Gilford's Australian lawyer and Andrew Green, the British Ambassador in Riyadh, which confirm the deal with Mr Gilford. The two nurses' letters were written on the eve of the court verdict on Tuesday.

The Australian lawyer for the Gilford family said the breach of secrecy over the financial details of the deal had now put it in jeopardy. In a statement from his office in Adelaide, Michael Abbott, QC, said discussions between the two parties could not continue if the Saudi lawyer persisted in his "unauthorised conduct".

He insisted Mr Gilford had not yet waived the death penalty for Parry, if she were to be found guilty of murder.

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Feuding ministers stop Blair reforms

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR'S plans for a radical reform of the welfare state are being undermined by a Whitehall battle between Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, and Frank Field, her deputy.

Mr Field, who was brought in by Mr Blair to "think the unthinkable", has been prevented from publishing a Green Paper on welfare reform by his boss. He is said to have become increasingly frustrated by Ms Harman's attempts to block his work.

He has also been infuriated by "a whispering campaign" to discredit him, which his supporters say has been masterminded by Ms Harman and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. Over the past week there have been some media reports claiming that Mr Field's attempts to shake up the welfare state have run into trouble and that he is on the point of being sacked. There had been reports that this idea was not radical enough and did not match up to his billing.

Yesterday Mr Field's supporters within the Government fought back. They denied reports that his work had been rejected by the Prime Minister and said that No 10 backed him.

They said that Mr Field would go ahead this autumn with policy papers spelling out his proposals for a fundamental shake-up of the welfare state, involving far-reaching changes in the benefit and pension systems. He is also planning speeches over the

next few months when he will spell out the need for "a staff-supported revolution".

The Welfare Reform Minister's supporters said, however, that Ms Harman had stopped him from publishing a Green Paper on the changes this autumn because she did not want to press ahead with long-term policy.

Government insiders say that Ms Harman has made clear that she intends to focus on short-term policies such as the "New Deal" for young unemployed people and single mothers. One source said: "Frank wants to set the agenda, to get out the ideas to the public, even if a lot of questions still have to be answered. But he has been stopped. He wanted to bring forward a Green Paper, but it has been put back. He is being blocked. She wants to lead."

Insiders claim that Ms Harman has been infuriated that Mr Field has grabbed more of the headlines than she has and that he has a close network of social security experts whom he often consults.

Mr Field has a long career in social welfare, having been chairman of the Child Poverty Action Group before he was elected to the Commons in 1979. He then went on to become chairman of the Commons select committee on social security.

Other officials concede that the war between the two ministers is highly damaging. "Frank knows that the ideas he had before he came into the department are inconsistent with what is going on now and he is having to come to terms with it," one said.

Mr Field's plans, aimed at moving away from means-testing, involve the strengthening of social insurance for pensions and unemployment benefit. There would be higher compulsory contributions financed by turning much of the health service budget into a health tax.

According to Whitehall sources, those plans are at variance with the Chancellor's ideas for big cuts in social security spending and for unifying the tax and benefit system.



British model Kate Moss opened London Fashion week yesterday in a sweater designed by Clements Ribeiro

Montgomerie in fighting mood

Colin Montgomerie, Europe's No 1 golfer, threw down the gauntlet on the eve of the Ryder Cup when he was drawn to play against Tiger Woods in the final four-ball match at Valderrama, Spain. "Now it's finally here. I want Tiger", he said. Pages 48, 49, 52



Ungagged whistle-blowers to get legal protection

BY JILL SHERMAN

THE Government has decided to back a Private Member's Bill giving legal protection to whistle-blowers if they speak up in the public interest.

Under the Bill, to be introduced by Richard Shepherd, Tory MP for Aldridge-Brownhills, workers in both the public and private sectors will be able to expose crime, fraud and serious malpractice at work without fear of victimisation.

The move emerged as Alan Milburn, a Health Minister, ordered health chiefs to remove gagging clauses in NHS employment contracts. Nurses and doctors will be able to comment on NHS cuts or staff

shortages without fear of being sacked or victimised, Mr Milburn announced. Some staff have been dismissed for refusing to remain silent over NHS cuts, long working hours or incidents of racism and violence.

The clauses have been inserted into contracts over the past few years by NHS trusts to try to prevent staff going to the press and criticising their own hospitals.

Mr Milburn's announcement, widely welcomed by doctors and nurses, is part of a series of government initiatives to boost morale and improve working conditions for health workers. In a letter to NHS trust and health authority chairmen, seen by

The Times, Mr Milburn said that the Government believed in greater openness and accountability in the provision of public services.

"There have been a number of well-publicised cases where NHS staff have felt obliged to raise concerns about inadequacies in the provision of healthcare publicly. In doing so they have provided an important safeguard for the public," he said.

"The Government will be supporting a Private Member's Bill to provide legal protection for staff in such circumstances," he added. "However I believe that we should act now, in advance of legislation, to ensure that any

Continued on page 2, col 1

Girl 'punished' by having her baby taken away

BY JOANNA BALE AND RICHARD FORD

A JUDGE who condemned a pregnant girl to a prison without childcare facilities told her yesterday that the removal of her baby at birth would be a "real punishment".

Judge Hutton drew immediate criticism from penal reformers after refusing an appeal from the 17-year-old shoplifter for her five-month sentence to be reduced by two weeks so that she would be out of prison in time for the birth. Rejecting her appeal, Judge Hutton said: "We accept that the immediate loss of your child after the birth will be a real punishment."

"But you deserve a real punishment to try to break once and for all this habit of stealing other people's property. We are quite satisfied that only a custodial sentence can be justified."

The girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, received her ninth conviction for shoplifting after acting as a lookout while an accomplice stole four shirts.

The court was told that the teenager was too young to be transferred to Holloway women's prison in north London where there are facilities for

new mothers to care for their children. As a result, she would give birth in a Bristol hospital and the child would then go into temporary care while she completed her sentence.

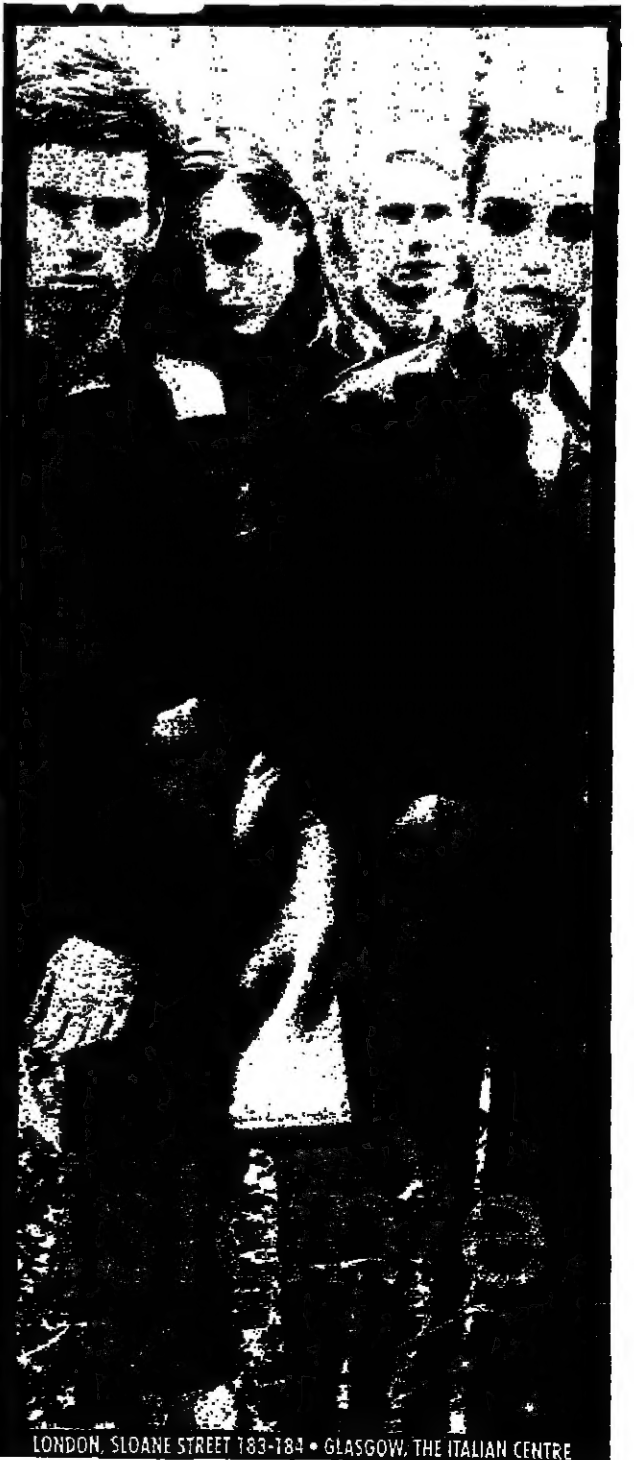
Judge Hutton said it was "very unfortunate" that a recent change to prison rules meant that, because of her age, she could not be sent to Holloway.

The decision not to allow the appeal was last night condemned by Frances Crook, director of the Howard League for Penal Reform. She said: "The forcible separation of mother and baby at birth has a catastrophic effect, not only on the mother but also on the child which can cause long-lasting damage."

"This is as much a punishment for the baby who has done nothing as it is a punishment of the mother and is a wholly disproportionate response to this particular offence."

"It is not up to the judge to say when a mother is separated from her baby. That is a matter for others, usually the prison service and social

Continued on page 2, col 5



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Unchecked temper tips chess chief overboard

BY ALAN HAMILTON

CHESS players will be familiar with the Sicilian Defence, but the Austrian Attack is an entirely new gambit.

Imagine a European Cup tie in which the away team's manager tears up the referee's yellow card, tampers with his watch, offers physical abuse to a home player, and stomps off the field shouting profanities at the opposition, and all this when his own side are winning. The match was an

England-Austria European qualifier, but there was no football involved: it happened on the cerebral and traditionally level playing field of chess.

Alfred Felsberger was clearly winning his match against local challenger Aaron Summerscale in the European Club Championship at Slough, Berkshire, last weekend. Summerscale was pushed for time: Felsberger, with plenty of time on his clock, should have been writing his moves down, according to the strict

etiquette of the game. He wasn't, but the referee was happy to overlook a minor omission. Whereupon Peter Detter, the Austrian team captain, lunged into the fray.

Witnesses said he interfered with the time clock, ripped up a written complaint about his player not recording his moves, poked the English player in the back, publicly called him something very rude, and stormed out. The upshot was that Felsberger was disqualified. Slough won the match,

and they now go forward to the European quarter-finals.

The chess world was last night reeling from this outbreak of violence and at the idiocy of the outburst. Raymond Keene, chess correspondent of *The Times*, said last night: "For a captain to intervene when one of his players is winning is nothing short of moronic. Any sensible manager, even if he were highly stressed, would have gone for a walk around the block with a cigarette."

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A fool who comes unstuck is shown the exit

Every so often clownishness gets a last laugh on the clown. This sketch yesterday remarked that Liberal Democrat conferences build to a climax on the final day. On the penultimate day came the speech by Paddy Ashdown, and on the final day — yesterday — the debate on euthanasia.

This was intended as a joke. The joke rebounds on me. The debate on euthanasia was moving, enlightening and brave. It was by far the best thing that has happened in Eastbourne this week and — as Sir Ludovic Kennedy and other speakers pointed out — it could only have happened at a Liberal Democrat conference.

In one of the best speeches I

have heard in recent years, and with beautiful brevity, Sir Ludovic lifted the eyes and, unexpectedly, the hearts of his hearers as he set out the case (quoting Keats) for helping people "cease upon the midnight with no pain".

I was brought up short in my sketchwriter's sniggering at the offbeat passions of Liberal Democrat activists. In his speech on Wednesday their leader had laboured mightily, interminably and loudly to persuade Britain that Britain needs this party. I was unconvinced. In their shorter speeches yesterday those who contributed to the euthanasia debate, focusing their concern not on their own party's navel but on the needs of a minority who have no



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

other politicians to speak for them. Liberal Democrats persuaded me of what Mr Ashdown could not: that they matter.

Not that the wider reaches of a party activist's concerns are without their absurdity. Liberal Democracy itself hovers near the fringe, and the fringe to a fringe approaches the bizarre. "I am from the animal kingdom," announced the speaker in one of this week's debates. The temptation to moo or bark instead of applauding was strong.

Love animals though we all

do, the inclusion of no fewer than seven animal-issue stalls in what is a small exhibitors' hall troubles the casual visitor with the suspicion that delegates are the quarry, animal activists the predator. If he has not already been trapped at the Animal Welfare Debate, two meetings of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (quails' eggs served), the Animal Protection Group, the National Anti-Vivisection Society, "Dogwatch" Animal Welfare, Animal Defenders on "Circus Madness" or the League

Against Cruel Sports bash... then he can spend Thursday among the exhibitors.

Starting gently at the RSPB stand, tempted by a quiz on birds, the browser moves on to the RSPCA and the Wildlife Network. Shifting up a gear, he visits the National Anti-Vivisection Society, of which the less said the better. He shudders at The Fox Files where, like a mad scientist, he confronts liquids bubbling in phials and watches a video of stags having their heads bitten off by dogs.

If by now you have not fainted, try the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Here you can choose from a bank of video buttons to select whichever horrific animal death you wish to witness.

The walls around you are entirely clothed in fur. The giant eyes of a fox follow us around the room.

There is no escape. I tried: into the conference hall, where I fell under the gaze of my former colleague, Hugh Dykes, the Liberal Democrats' latest recruit from the Tories. This was such a nice party, trilled Mr Dykes, "that I don't know why I didn't join it before". I do.

Bidding us a shy farewell, the donnish President, Bob MacLennan, inspired in departing delegates the thought that Liberal Democrats were ready at last to go back to their constituencies and... drive carefully.

Conference, pages 12, 13

NEWS IN BRIEF

MPs' new offices go £100m over budget

A new office block for MPs is expected to cost £100 million more than budgeted after the extension of the Jubilee Tube line delayed the start of building work. Costings for the complex above Westminster Tube station have risen from £150 million to £250 million, making it one of the most expensive built commercial properties in London.

The new seven-storey building opposite Big Ben will provide room for 200 MPs and their staff above a shopping mall and restaurant. The aim is to relieve overcrowding in the Palace of Westminster, where most MPs share rooms. Government officials insisted that in real terms the cost increase was around £20 million. They said the £150 million figure was based at 1991 prices, when the project was first agreed. The £250 million figure, they said, was an estimate for the final price in 2001 after allowing for increases in building costs with inflation.

School calls Mir

A girls' boarding school in North Yorkshire was expecting to beam a message to the British-born astronaut Michael Foale on the space station *Mir* early today. NASA asked Richard Horton, head of physics at Harrogate Ladies' College, to use its amateur radio equipment to tell Dr Foale that a space shuttle was being launched to bring him home. The college, which has sent messages to space before, is helping because *Mir* will not be within NASA's range for an hour after the shuttle *Atlantis* is launched.

SNP urges royalty poll

Members of the Scottish National Party underlined their growing support for republicanism yesterday when they voted to hold a referendum on whether the Queen should remain as head of state. The vote, at the party's annual conference, marked a victory for grassroots activists who object to the party's policy which would allow the monarch to remain as head of state in an independent Scotland. Alex Salmond, the party's leader, who voted against the referendum, said he was relaxed about the outcome.

Near-miss figures rise

British air-traffic controllers reported 70 near-misses between aircraft last year — a third more than in 1995. But the Civil Aviation Authority said the result was a "blip" caused by the introduction of more sophisticated technology which was detecting an increasing number of low-risk incidents. The rate of very serious incidents appeared to be going down, with 24 reported so far this year, compared with 31 in the same periods of both 1995 and 1996. Most near-misses involved no real risk, the CAA said.

Filling a cultural gap

The Arts Council yesterday announced funding for a new concert venue for the South West, to be built on a derelict harbourside site in Bristol. The £93 million Harbourside Centre will include a 2,300-seat concert venue and a 450-seat dance theatre. Earl Gowrie, the chairman of the Arts Council, announced a £4.3 million lottery grant to cover detailed design work and the start of construction next May. Completion is due in 2002.

Opera resignation

The general director of Glyndebourne Festival Opera resigned yesterday. Anthony Whitworth-Jones, 52, who has been at Glyndebourne for 17 years and in his current job for ten, will leave at the end of the 1998 season. He said that the parting was amicable. His resignation leaves another huge vacancy in the opera world just days after Dennis Marks quit as the general director of English National Opera.

Unidentified flying Lego

Lego has launched a range of build-your-own UFO toys in an early assault on the Christmas toy market, which is worth £1 billion. With luminous shields and laser guns, the range of seven UFOs, from an X-sterrella warship at £50 to an Xabductor craft and Xcyber vehicle, are a far cry from the traditional building bricks of the Danish toy company. Teletubbies merchandise and virtual pets are also expected to be very popular.

War-time fort sold

The Grade II listed Haile Sand Fort, once home to up to 200 military personnel manning war-time defences on the southern bank of the Humber estuary, has been sold at auction for £15,000. The fort was completed in 1918 at a cost of £500,000 and was vacated by the Army in 1956. The new owner, a north-east businessman, plans to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds on renovating the steel and concrete structure but refuses to say for what purpose.

Balloon duel to resume

The battle to become the first person to travel around the world by balloon will resume in December when Richard Branson and his American rival, Steve Fossett, again take to the skies after both failing in January. Mr Fossett, the 52-year-old stockbroker who holds the distance record of 9,000 miles, announced yesterday that he is to set off alone in *Solo Spirit II* from St Louis, Missouri. At about the same time, Mr Branson hopes to take off from Morocco.

Premiers hail Ulster talks breakthrough

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE British and Irish Prime Ministers expressed delight yesterday at Wednesday night's breakthrough permitting the start of full-scale peace negotiations, but hard-line Ulster Unionists marred the general euphoria.

The Democratic Unionist and UK Unionist parties, representing roughly 40 per cent of the Unionist vote, both condemned the Unionist compromise that made the breakthrough possible and reiterated their determination to boycott the talks.

Grenade attacks on two Belfast police stations meanwhile fuelled fears of a campaign to disrupt the negotiations by dissident republicans opposed to the IRA ceasefire. Neither grenade exploded and no one claimed responsibility.

The multi-party agreement that ended 15 months of procedural wrangling means that from next week Unionists, nationalists, republicans and loyalists will come together for the first time since partition in 1921 to try and thrash out a way of living together.

Mr Blair said he was "delighted" by the breakthrough, and reiterated his determination to achieve a settlement by next May. Bertie Aherne, the Irish Taoiseach,



Trimble facing Unionist pressure

said the "historical agreement" put the island of Ireland "on the threshold of a new era of peace and prosperity".

The breakthrough came when David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, settled for less than the absolute guarantee of some IRA disarmament during the talks. Ian Paisley, leader of the rival DUP, swiftly accused Mr Trimble of "surrender". He said the UUP had consigned its stand on decommissioning "to the pit of oblivion" and left the Union in "the hands of a negotiating body with Sinn

Fein at the steering wheel".

The DUP abandoned the peace process in July and Dr Paisley emphatically rejected an appeal from Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to rejoin. Robert McCartney, leader of the tiny UK Unionist Party, likewise vowed never to rejoin a process designed "to achieve Irish unity".

Mr Trimble also faces dissent within his own party. William Thompson, MP for West Tyrone, is threatening to resign if the UUP enters direct negotiations with Sinn Fein, and a survey by the *Irish News* yesterday showed four more of the party's ten MPs refusing to back the leadership's participation in the talks.

Mr Trimble criticised the Government for inviting Sinn Fein to Stormont but bluntly told his Unionist critics that the Union could not be defended "at long distance". He acknowledged settling for "rather less than I wanted" on decommissioning but insisted it would remain a live issue.

The procedural motion approved by the eight parties and two governments on Wednesday night called paramilitary decommissioning an "indispensable" part of the negotiating process.



Mo Mowlam and, left, John de Chastelain, chairing the decommissioning

Politicians and government officials believe the Ulster Unionists' ancient hatred of Sinn Fein will gradually diminish. They argue that it is hard to hate people when you have to share a building three days a week. Seamus Close, deputy leader of the Alliance Party, said: "The human chemistry is going to be very

very interesting to watch."

Mr Close and members of other smaller parties already chat quite amiably with Gerry Adams and the "Shinners" in the margins of the talks. They were "very, very plausible, extremely well-mannered" and "I constantly pinch myself to remind myself of their background", he said.

There will be three strands to the negotiations beginning next week: with Northern Ireland alone, with North-South relations and with Anglo-Irish relations. If an agreement can be reached by May it will be put to the peoples of Northern Ireland and the Republic in separate referendums.

Whistle-blowers

Continued from page 1

member of NHS staff feels able to raise their concerns about health care matters in a responsible manner without fear of victimisation.

Mr Milburn added that he wanted good practice to spread throughout the NHS so that all employers allowed their staff maximum freedom of speech consistent with the requirements of patient confidentiality.

In a separate move Mike Deegan, acting director of Human Resources at the NHS Executive, has written to chief executives in the health service emphasising that staff should be encouraged to report to managers where they have concerns. But he suggests that where this is not possible, staff should be allowed to speak to the media.

Mr Milburn disclosed his

NHS measures at a speech to the Association of Healthcare at Keele University. "The health and well-being of staff is central to the health and well-being of the NHS," he said. "The interests of staff and the interests of patients are inextricably linked. Treat staff well and they will treat patients better."

He outlined a five-point plan to improve working conditions. This will promote health at work by stopping avoidable accidents and introducing proper anti-violence strategies, tackle racism through new initiatives, promote more flexible working hours and improve standards of food and accommodation for junior doctors.

He said the Government wanted to hear staff's views on these and any other issues they considered important.

Glasgow official fights suspension

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

LABOUR became embroiled yesterday in what could be the first of many court battles over its suspension of nine Glasgow councillors following the "votes for trips" inquiry.

Alex Mosson, Glasgow's deputy Lord Provost, became the first to launch a legal challenge to the action taken against him at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

Mr Mosson, a Labour Party member for about 20 years and a Glasgow councillor since 1984, moved swiftly to clear his name by denying suggestions that he may be corrupt, involved in sleaze or went on foreign trips in exchange for his political sup-

port. Gerald Hanratty, Mr Mosson's advocate, told the judge, Lady Cosgrove, that Mr Mosson had not been told what he had done wrong and had been given no opportunity to answer allegations against him during his 30-minute interview with party officials in June.

But Colin Tyre, advocate for the Labour Party, told the court that the NEC had identified a prima facie breach of Labour Party rules and the suspension was a temporary measure taken pending further investigations. The hearing continues.

Magnus Linklater, page 12

Judge criticised

Continued from page 1

services." The decision was also criticised by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders. Its principal officer, Paul Cavardino, said: "The judge's comments ignore the fact that the offender is not the only one being punished."

The court was told that the girl was given the five-month youth detention sentence by youth court justices in Cheltenham last week when she admitted stealing four shirts worth £60 from the town's Marks & Spencer store.

Christopher Jarvis, for the prosecution, said her role was to act as a lookout while a 20-year-old woman stole the shirts. The accomplice had no previous convictions and escaped with a caution.

The girl had been shoplifting since she was 14, he said,

and had breached numerous non-custodial penalties including supervision orders, a conditional discharge and community service.

Carolyn Poots, for the defence, said the penalty was too harsh in view of her lesser role in the theft and the fact that her accomplice had not been prosecuted. "I ask that she be given one last chance."

Her mother also has a criminal record and would not be available to care for the child. Her boyfriend, the child's father, was serving a custodial sentence himself.

The Prison Service said last night that the decision on whether the baby was removed from the girl was not for the judge. A panel including representatives from social services, the probation and the prison services would make the decision.

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The wives and partners of six of the twelve European Ryder Cup golfers at the opening ceremony at Valderrama in southern Spain yesterday. Wearing the official European team uniform they are, from the left, Linda Hook,

Per-Ulrik Johansson's girlfriend; Brenna Cepelak, Nick Faldo's partner; Vikki Langer, wife of Bernhard; Heather Clarke, wife of Darren; Laura Cadiz, Ignacio Garrido's girlfriend; and Mia Parnevik, wife of Jesper. At least the

European women kept their feet on the ground. Tom Lehman's wife, Melissa, fell over as she marched into the arena waving her American flag over-exuberantly to the grandstand. She jumped up with nothing hurt but her pride —

which is exactly what Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe captain, plans for America's men over the three days of competition starting today. The ceremony was attended by a host of celebrities including the Duke of York,

George Bush, John Jacobs, Tony Jacklin and Bernard Gallacher. The Duke plays off a single-figure handicap and is expected to cheer on Europe throughout the weekend. It is the first time a "home" Ryder Cup match has

been held outside Britain. The Americans are captained by Tom Kite.

Lynne Truss, page 48
Captain's goal, page 49
Cup pairings, page 52

'Fifth Man': I took KGB cash to fix my teeth

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE British spy who always denied he was the Fifth Man claims in his posthumously published autobiography that he only took money from the Russians when he needed expensive dental treatment and for other "real emergencies".

John Cairncross, who died two years ago, makes the claims in *The Enigma Spy*, published next week after being completed by his wife Gayle.

Despite being labelled as the Fifth Man and the first atom spy in a book co-authored by Oleg Gordievsky, the KGB officer who spied for MI6, Cairncross dismisses the accusation as "totally unfounded" and denies he was ever an ideological spy like the notorious four Cambridge spies, Kim Philby, Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean and Anthony Blunt.

He says in his memoirs that he would have refused any money from his KGB controllers — first Otto, codename for Arnold Deutsch, and then Henry, real name Anatoli Gorskii — if he had been earning more money as a diplomat at the Foreign Office. He says: "The Russians continued to offer money to me at regular intervals, but I only accepted when there was a real emergency, such as the moment when I needed expensive dental treatment."

He adds: "It is often said that the Russians offer money in order to compromise their agents and prevent them from deserting the cause. I must say, without any intention of

presenting them in a favourable light, that they never used the financial weapon against me."

Cairncross admitted to MI5 that he had spied for the Russians during the Second World War and had handed over top-secret decrypts of German radio messages when he worked for a year at the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park. There was an agreement of "mutual silence" between MI5 and Cairncross and he was never prosecuted.

Cairncross says he knew Burgess, Maclean and Blunt but denied there was a Ring of Five, only a Ring of Four. He was always a "loner", he says, who worked to his KGB controllers without any link to the other spies.

His only reason for being a spy, he says, was to help the Russians fight the Nazis in the



Cairncross denied he was an ideological spy

war. He says his greatest achievement, about which he has no regrets, was to provide crucial Enigma decrypts which helped the Russians to win the Battle of Kursk in the summer of 1943, the largest tank battle in history and a turning point in the war.

Enigma material passed to the Russians also helped them destroy 600 German aeroplanes during an air battle.

He says there was no problem about obtaining the decrypts, "for they were left around on the floor after being processed". He concealed them in his trousers and was never searched.

One of the MI5 interrogators who saw him in 1973 was Stella Rimington, later to become Director-General of the Security Service. He writes: "At this meeting, he [a Mr P] was accompanied by a very personable young lady named Stella Rimington who was dressed elegantly in trousers."

In a preface to *The Enigma Spy*, published by Century, Sir Alec Cairncross, his brother, says: "This is the first and only account by my younger brother that I have ever been given of his contacts with the Soviet Union. During his lifetime he maintained a rigorous silence about those contacts and at no time confided in me."

He adds: "John was particularly upset by the accusation that he had been an atom spy. The only evidence, as he points out, is that his name appeared by mistake on the minutes of a meeting which he did not attend and in whose business he took no part."

FA accused of giving male players a kick start

By ADRIAN LEE

MALE footballers were awarded their Football Association coaching licences despite gaining poorer marks than women who failed the course, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Sammy Lee, who played for Liverpool and is now the club's reserve team coach, failed six parts of the course. Paul Allen, formerly of West Ham and now of Millwall, failed eight parts but both men received advanced coaching certificates, it was claimed. But Vanessa Hardwick, who failed only four parts, was unsuccessful.

The tribunal, in central London, heard that 1,500 men had been awarded the certifi-

cate, including the former England coaches Terry Venables and Bobby Robson, but only two women.

Ms Hardwick, a physical education teacher from Ickenham, northwest London, claims that the FA sexually discriminated against her on a two-week course at Lilleshall, Shropshire, last year. Giving evidence yesterday, Ms Hardwick claimed that the course had been dominated by men and that she had been deliberately left out.

"The course was physically and emotionally demanding and not being one of the boys made it more intimidating and stressful. I suffered

because I was assessed on my ability to play men's football in their style and not women's, which is vastly different, and that put me at a disadvantage." All those who ran the course were men, she said.

The tribunal was told that 80 per cent of Premiership managers held the certificate, which was the "very top of the tree" in coaching. Robin Russell, the FA's former assistant director of coaching, who was in charge of Ms Hardwick's course, said the disparity in the marking had only recently come to light. He denied she was failed because she was a woman. The hearing continues.

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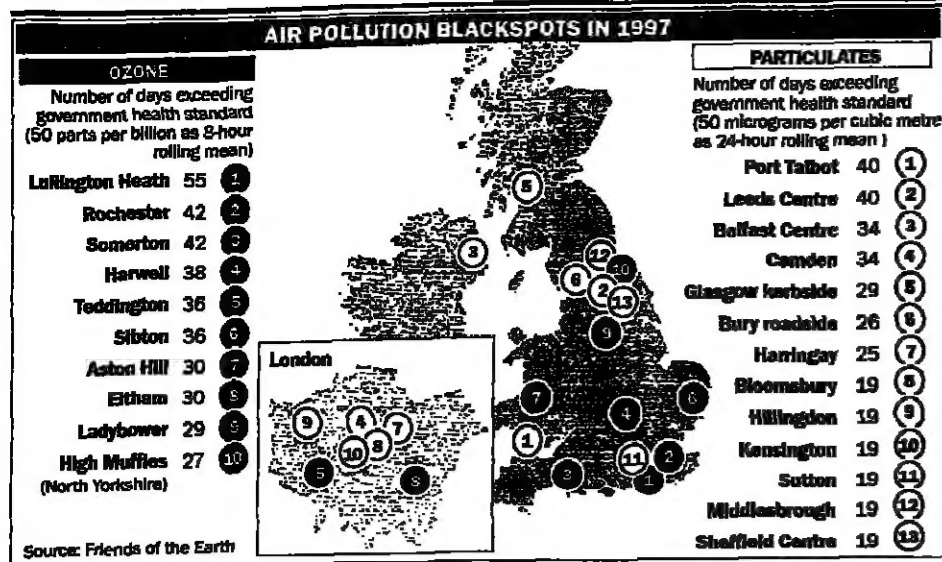
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Air pollution 'exceeds limits every five days'

By Peter Foster

AIR pollution reaches levels harmful to health once every five days in parts of Britain, environmental campaigners said yesterday.

Friends of the Earth published figures showing that levels of ozone and particulates, which aggravate asthma and contribute to lung and heart disease, regularly exceed government health standards in many parts of the country. The warning came as the British Medical Association published a report calling on the Government to set national targets to reduce traffic, diesel emissions and vehicle noise, and encourage healthier forms of transport such as cycling.

The BMA report, which analyses the effect of traffic pollution on health, predicts serious consequences if traffic levels are not brought under control.

The Friends of the Earth figures are taken from government monitoring stations and highlight national pollution blackspots. They show the number of days this year when levels of ozone and

particulates have exceeded standards in the national air quality strategy.

The monitoring station that registered the most days on which government standards for ozone levels were exceeded was Lullington Heath in East Sussex with 55 days, followed by Somerton in Somerset and Rochester in Kent with 42 days.

Leeds city centre and Port Talbot, South Wales, were the worst stations for particulate pollution this year with more than 40 days when excessive levels were recorded. Particulates, tiny flecks of soot coated in petroleum chemicals such as benzene which penetrate deep into the lungs, are estimated to cause as many as 10,000 premature deaths a year in Britain.

Melinda Letts, chief executive of National Asthma Campaign, said Britain's 3.5 million asthma sufferers were fed-up with breathing traffic fumes that could trigger life-threatening attacks. "People should not have to make the choice between their health and being able to go outdoors and live a normal life."

Environmental campaigners said yesterday that they felt they were winning the argument over traffic pollution. Earlier this year the Government announced its

Firm goes cool on self-chilling can

A COMPANY which was planning to market a self-chilling can announced yesterday that it was modifying the product after an international protest (Nick Nuttall writes).

In June the Joseph Company of California said it had developed a drinks can that cooled at the press of a button.

But environmentalists and government ministers, including Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, condemned it.

The gas used, HFC 134a, is ozone-friendly but is up to 3,400 times more powerful in its environmental effects than carbon dioxide and critics feared that the cans would add to global warming. Yesterday the company said it was now planning to use carbon dioxide as a cooling agent.

Robin Fellow, director of the World Wide Fund for Nature, welcomed the decision but reserved judgment on the use of carbon dioxide.



A policewoman wears a mask to direct traffic in London. The BMA said levels of pollutants pose a risk to health

intention to create an integrated transport policy which would tackle over-reliance on cars. A White Paper is scheduled to appear next spring.

The Department of the Environment said yesterday that it was conscious of the need to address traffic levels, encourage the use of public transport and cut pollution. It said a system of local air quality management would be in operation by next year.

According to a MORI survey conducted last year for the National Society for Clean Air, of 1,999 adults interviewed, 86 per cent said pollution was the environment and conserva-

tion issue that most concerned them.

Tony Bosworth, an air pollution campaigner at Friends of the Earth, welcomed the government moves and the BMA report: "Traffic pollution causes thousands of premature deaths a year which is why the Government should back the setting of national targets for reducing traffic."

The BMA report, which is being seen as an important part of the consultation process initiated by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, says that while roads have become safer for drivers, with accidents at an all-time low,

the culture of car use has led to a marked decrease in walking and cycling.

The average distance walked per year has fallen by 20 per cent in the last 20 years. Yet walking has major health benefits for all ages — combating obesity and coronary heart disease, protecting against osteoporosis in later life and promoting strength and psychological well-being," the report adds.

The report says that road traffic results in stress caused by fear and worry of forthcoming journeys, sleep deprivation caused by living near busy roads and the loss of

green spaces. The BMA notes that traffic is responsible for 80 per cent of pollution in London and 25 per cent nationwide. Petrol fumes are linked to leukaemia, and childhood asthma has increased dramatically with hospital admissions rising from 4,000 in 1980 to 10,000 in 1990.

The report concludes with a list of more than 50 recommendations to various government departments, including the establishment of a traffic reduction unit and stringent new limits on exhaust emissions.

Pollution disaster, page 18

Bill Gates gives another £12m to university

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

BILL GATES, the billionaire founder of Microsoft, has added to the record-breaking donation his company made to Cambridge University this summer with a £12 million gift of his own.

He will meet half the cost of a new, state-of-the-art computer department to be built on the western outskirts of the city. The gift was made by Mr Gates's personal charity to Cambridge's development office in New York.

The donation comes only three months after Microsoft announced it had chosen the university as the site for a £50 million research centre, hoping to create a new generation of computers. The latest project has no connection with that development.

A university spokeswoman said: "It was completely no-strings attached payment. He gave it to the university to do whatever it wanted, and it was thought most appropriate to use the money to help to set up the new computer department."

The new building, which might be named after Mr Gates, will form part of a science campus planned by the university. The spokeswoman added: "It will have to go through all the usual university committees and procedures, and then all the city planning procedures, so it will take at least a couple of years."

Mr Gates, whose personal fortune is estimated at \$38 billion (£24 billion), said he was pleased at the project chosen for his gift.

"I am excited to see the great work that will emerge from this new centre. Cambridge has built an outstanding computer science curriculum that has already become a training ground for entrepreneurs in this field around the world."

Trade body finds tough meat warning hard to stomach

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

EATING red meat may increase the risk of cancer, the Government said in tough new guidelines yesterday.

Even those eating average levels of meat — eight to ten portions a week, or 90 grams a day — should consider cutting down. Those eating 12-14 portions a week should reduce consumption, the Department of Health said.

The recommendations were attacked by the Meat and Livestock Commission, which said they were not justified by scientific evidence.

The new advice was issued in the form of a press release without the report that provides the scientific basis for the advice. The report — which made recommendations less tough than the press release — was withdrawn from the printers at the last minute after scientists on the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Food Policy (Coma) made last-minute objections, claiming it misrepresented their views by underplaying the risks of meat to health.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, was forced to order printing of the report to stop and a revised version, including the tougher new wording about meat, was agreed and will appear next month.

Ministers were angered by the confusion and that it gave the impression that data was being doctored to make it more palatable to the meat trade. It remained uncertain last night who exactly had been responsible for sending the softer version of the advice to be printed.

That version said that only those eating large amounts of meat — 140 g (5 oz) a day or more — were at increased risk

THE PROS AND CONS OF DNA TESTING

Genetic testing for breast cancer cannot at present be justified, Ruth Chadwick, professor of moral philosophy at the University of Central Lancashire, told a debate organised by the King's Fund yesterday (Nigel Hawkes writes).

"The costs, both psychological and economic, are simply too high a price to pay and cannot be afforded by the NHS," she said.

Dr Nigel Bundred, reader in surgical oncology at the University Hospital of South Manchester,

said that many common cancers did not have any intervention that would guarantee a person would not develop cancer. "Public demand for testing has been stoked by geneticists," Professor Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Fund, took the opposite view. "Genetic testing has the potential to save thousands of lives and save the NHS money. Money needs to be made available now to deal with the consequences of testing."

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Hormone is key to bedwetting

BEDWETTING by children is usually a result of underproduction of vasopressin, the anti-diuretic hormone, rather than a bladder abnormality or personality defects, the new International Children's Continence Society confirms in a report in *The Pharmaceutical Times*.

The psychological problems that are often obvious are generally a result of the way the condition has been treated — not the cause of the trouble. It is normal for babies of less than one year to have low levels of vasopressin and no amount of training can persuade them to be dry at night. Bedwetting usually stops when bladder volume increases,



some time between the ages of two and five, and production of the hormone rises.

Research by Ann Fly Hansen, of Aarhus University in Denmark, has shown that vasopressin is produced in appreciably lower quantities by persistent bedwetters, although their bladder size and function are normal.

The usual treatment is the provision of an alarm and a kindly chat. This is not of help when there is too little

of vasopressin and therefore an abnormally high night-time secretion of urine.

Desmopressin, a synthetic vasopressin, is available in spray form for children. When combined with an alarm which activates when the bed is wet, it is effective in 70 per cent of cases. The fast improvement can revolutionise a child's morale.

In a study of 12,000 children in the United Kingdom, it was found that 10 per cent

were still occasional enuretics at five and 5 per cent were at the age of 11. There is often a family history of bedwetting and in the past it has been ascribed to late maturation of the nervous system. Instead, it may well be that many hereditary bedwetters have too little vasopressin and require desmopressin spray or tablets.

Any bedwetting tendency can be enhanced by stress, including that caused by the understandable but regrettable irritation that is caused, or even parents' over-enthusiasm for potty training.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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How Gilford extracted his blood money

LUCILLE McLAUCHLAN and Deborah Parry have been secretly bartering for their lives for the past two weeks.

Crouched in their stifling cell in the Damman Central Prison they stared in disbelief at the documents detailing the amount of money Frank Gilford was demanding to spare them from the executioner's sword.

Their lawyers tried to explain to them the opaque working of "blood money" under Saudi Arabia's Sharia law and made it clear the women had no other choice but to sign this secret agreement.

Before they agreed, the two nurses insisted on sending a note condemning Mr Gilford's behaviour to the British diplomat in Australia who was monitoring this deal.

They felt they were being blackmailed and were appalled that Mr Gilford would not agree that all the evidence from the murder investigation should be revealed until after he got his money.

From the \$1.2 million purse, \$700,000 went to him and only \$500,000 to a children's hospital in Australia. McLauchlan, 31, from Dundee and Parry, 38, from Alton, Hampshire, wrote that they wanted all the money to go to charity.

One of their lawyers, Michael Dark, said: "At first there was delight that Mr Gilford was showing clemency."

"For a day they felt relief that the threat of the death sentence had been lifted from them, and then hours later they heard a radio bulletin in their cell saying Deborah was to be executed and Lucille to be publicly flogged. They were utterly distraught."

Parry collapsed on the floor of her cell when she heard that she had been sentenced to death. Other inmates crowded into the cell and started screaming for help as McLauchlan tried to revive her.

Parry, who was already undergoing psychiatric treatment, was taken to the hospital wing "for her own safety". She was placed on an intravenous drip.

Mr Dark said: "They had been on an emotional roller-coaster for 48 hours."

During the negotiations Mr Gilford often changed his mind about the money he wanted. Both women knew

Obliged to barter for their lives

for the past two weeks, McLauchlan and Parry found the final deal beyond belief, reports Daniel McGrory

their families could never find the \$1.2 million that he had decided was the final price of his sister's life.

A Saudi legal source told *The Times*: "They were at their wits' end. Both were literally sick at the thought of what they were being forced to do, but they knew they had no other option."

"Both were insistent their families must be assured they would not die if they could not raise that much money. They were scared, very confused, and frankly didn't know what to do."

The nurses also knew that time was against them.

They had been told that on September 23 that the Islamic court would convene. Parry was convinced the three judges would deliver their verdicts then. McLauchlan tried to calm her friend.

Michael Dark said: "On the eve of the court hearing they signed the deal and wrote their handwritten notes." They were for Sir Roger Carrick, the British High Commissioner in Australia, to protest their innocence and their abhorrence at what they were being forced to do.

"They knew they were innocent, but the fact this clemency deal was being rushed past them convinced them that the courts would return guilty verdicts," a Saudi legal source said.

The nurses had been told that Sir Roger was involved in the negotiations with Mr Gilford's lawyers. They wanted their views passed on to the 59-year-old taxi driver who both accuse of prolonging their torment.

Deborah Parry wrote: "I have no choice but to sign."

McLauchlan wrote about her "great reluctance" and her "distaste" at what she was being forced into. She described the "unbelievable stress and worry" both women were under.

Throughout, both maintain their complete innocence of Miss Gilford's murder in her

bedroom at the King Fahd military complex in Dhahran on December 11. The 55-year-old Australian staff nurse had been suffocated, bludgeoned and stabbed 13 times.

Lawyers say they did not try to influence the women's choice of language. McLauchlan is the more strident referring to Mr Gilford's "mercenary aims" and him receiving a "small fortune".

Both letters were delivered by Mr Dark to the British embassy in Riyadh and then on to Australia.

One of their Saudi lawyers, Saleh al-Hajjailan, agreed to reveal the contents of these handwritten notes to *The Times* last night only after Mr Gilford, his wife and his lawyers claimed that no such deal existed for him to waive the death penalty.

"The torment he has put these women through is indescribable," Mr Dark said.

"Now he has lied and they hear reports in their prison cell the deal they signed he wants to ignore. These women must be reassured they will neither be hanged nor flogged. They and I feel Mr Gilford should not be making so much money out of others' agony."

Mr Dark described the last hours of negotiations as "harrowing".

On Saturday he was allowed to see them to finalise the deal. Both women studied the documents and talked amongst themselves.

"You could sense their relief but also their anguish."

They had both written their letters by the morning of the court hearing.

"They had hoped that the Court of Cassation was going to hear evidence," Mr Dark said. "They had not expected a final verdict."

Twenty minutes after she returned to her cell and was reunited with Parry the women heard a radio news bulletin on the BBC World Service.

"Wrongly it said Parry was to be executed," Mr Dark said. "She was distraught." McLauchlan tried to comfort her while she tried to grasp her own fate — 500 lashes and eight years.

DEBORAH PARRY'S LETTER

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

DEAR SIR ROGER

I am opposed to signing this settlement document, as I am totally innocent, and it is abhorrent to me to give so much money to someone in connection with a crime that I did not commit. But in the circumstances, I have no choice but to sign, because the threat of the death penalty is too much for me to continue to bear.

My family and I have suffered enormous mental torment already by virtue of the death threat that has been unjustly hanging over me for what seems a lifetime and that has been prolonged and worsened by the actions of Mr Gilford and his lawyers.

Despite the injustice of this agreement, as a nurse I am pleased that at least some of the money will go to the hospital in Adelaide,

and would prefer that the entire sum be given to charity.

However, as with the threat of the death penalty, I am in the hands of Mr Gilford and of whatever his demands may be as to who will be the ultimate recipient of the funds.

I would like to state here and now that I append my signature with a totally clear conscience, in the full and certain knowledge that I am innocent of the unsubstantiated accusations against me.

I note sadly that Mr Gilford has only agreed to join us in asking the Saudi Arabian authorities to disclose all the evidence in their possession relating to the murder after he has been paid.

Yours sincerely

DEBORAH K. PARRY

September 22 1997



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LUCILLE McLAUGHLIN'S LETTER



PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

DEAR SIR ROGER

I am writing this from Damman Central Prison whilst I await a verdict on the outcome of my trial of the murder of Yvonne Gilford.

Although I am signing this document, I do so with great reluctance, and I sincerely hope that my signature will not be misinterpreted by the Saudi Arabia authorities and others as in any way being an admission of guilt. I have no choice but to settle privately with Mr Gilford for money and, however distasteful, I am under enormous pressure to do so.

The constant threat of the unjust death penalty has caused unbelievable stress and worry, not only to Debbie and myself but also to our families and friends and to our supporters who have done so much to help us for no financial gain.

I am innocent of all charges against me and hope and pray that I

have the chance of a fair trial to clear my name in the near future.

I have from the beginning asked Mr Gilford to help us in finding out the truth regarding Yvonne's death, but only now has he agreed to join us in uncovering the evidence — upon his receipt of a small fortune. It is a cruel world that ties our search for justice to someone else's mercenary aims, but there seems to be no escaping that cynical equation.

I hope that any money which Mr Gilford receives from this settlement or which he manages to raise himself from this tragedy will be used in a charitable way in memory of his sister, my colleague and friend, Yvonne. Let us hope that it is the memory of the charity which lasts, not the aftertaste of the other money which will be passed.

Yours sincerely

LUCILLE McLAUGHLIN

September 22 1997



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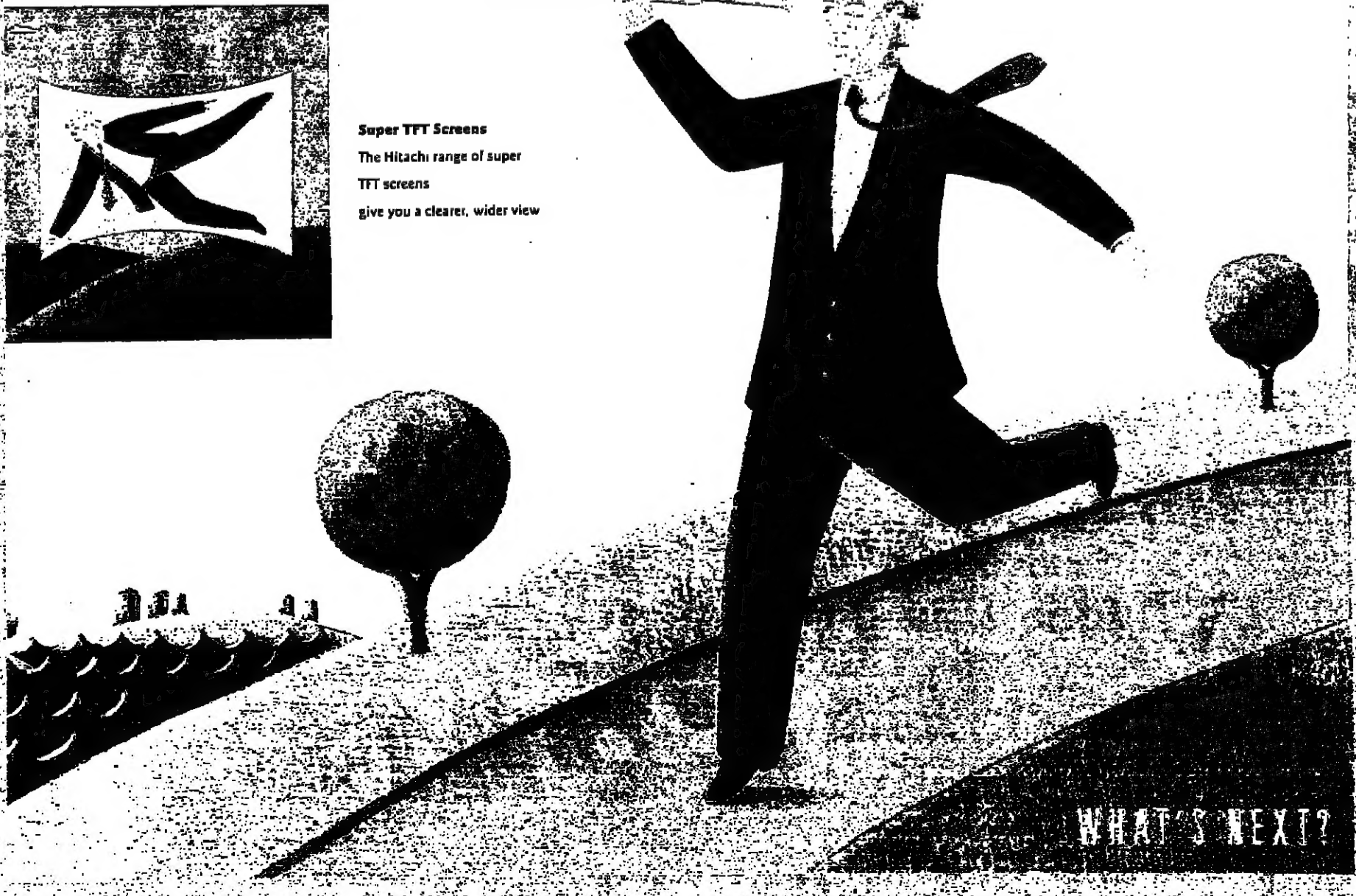
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MARTIN BEDDALL

Wakeham sets out to kill paparazzi market

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to drive the paparazzi out of Britain by ending the market in intrusive photography were unveiled yesterday by Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission.

The proposals, drawn up after consultation with newspaper editors, also seek to reduce the media "scrum" around people in the news, protect children from intrusion until they have finished full-time education, ban motorbike chases, protect the bereaved from unwanted media attention and extend privacy zones so that people can eat in restaurants and sunbathe without fear of harassment.

Newspapers will be banned from publishing pictures obtained by stalking or hounding, trespassing, breaking traffic laws and road chases under the proposals. Lord Wakeham said: "There will therefore no longer be a market in this country for pictures taken by the sort of photographers who persistently pursued Princess Diana."

"Motorbike chases, stalking and hounding are unacceptable - and editors who carry pictures obtained by them will

PROPOSALS TO PROTECT PRIVACY

- To ban publication of pictures obtained illegally or through "persistent pursuit" or stalking.
- To encourage photo agencies to sign up to the Code of Practice.
- To tackle the "deeply intimidating" media scum that builds up around the home or workplace of someone in a news story.
- To extend the arbitrary age limit of 16 on the protection of children to all those in full-time education.
- To ban payments for stories to those under 16.
- To ban stories on the private life of children where the only justification is that their parents are famous.
- To expand the code's definition of private property to include such places as churches or restaurants, where people might rightly expect privacy.
- To define private life in terms, for instance, of people's health, home life, family relationships and personal correspondence into which the Press should not intrude without overriding public interest.

be subjected to the severest censure by the commission."

Photograph agencies, many of which circulated pictures of the Princess on holiday with Dodi Fayed, are to be encouraged to come within the commission's jurisdiction.

Lord Wakeham proposed to extend the definition of private property to include public places where people could reasonably expect privacy. Celebrities should be able to eat a meal in a restaurant, visit church or go on holiday without their privacy being

invaded, said Lord Wakeham. However, he added that famous people who chose to go to popular beaches in Spain or the South of France could not "reasonably expect not to be photographed."

He also proposed moves to reduce the amount of "doorstepping" - when reporters and photographers surround a person's home or workplace. "This scum is deeply intimidating. Journalists should stay at the scene only for as long as the public interest requires," he said.

this had happened at Dunblane and most recently with Prince William, Prince Harry and the Prince of Wales in Balmoral, and he would like to see it institutionalised in the Code.

The new measures would not bring about an end to "kiss and tell" stories which always had been subject to the code.

The moves were backed by broadsheet and tabloid editors alike, and are expected to be formally approved by the PCC's code committee.

Lord Wakeham said he would also be contacting the ambassadors and press regulators of most European countries, America, Australia, New Zealand and Canada to discuss a collective approach to the problem. But he conceded: "The market place in which they operate is global, and no actions that we can take on our own in this country could alter that in any way."

The moves were being considered yesterday by the code committee, chaired by Sir David English.

□ The News of the World has told more than 100 freelance photographers and agencies they must sign a declaration confirming they will not stalk or pursue people in the news in order to obtain photographs.



Lord Wakeham announcing his proposals yesterday on the use of paparazzi photographs in the media

Brown's advisers tell how they manipulated the media

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

Brown: he is shown preparing the Budget

GORDON BROWN'S advisers have given a fascinating insight into the way they manipulated the media as Labour drew up its key economic pledges in the months before the general election.

Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's media chief, explains in a Scottish Television documentary how it was necessary to be "economical with the truth" as Mr Brown prepared to announce that he would not increase the top rate of tax if Labour gained power.

Mr Whelan happily admits to an outrageous piece of media manipu-

lation. First the Sunday papers were softened up with promises that a Labour government would be tough on public spending and to watch for a speech later in the week on the implications it might have for tax.

Then Monday morning television programmes were led the same line in interviews recorded on the Sunday evening and questions of tax levels were ducked.

But Mr Brown stunned the political world by making the announcement right at the end of a live interview on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme on Monday morning that the top rate of tax would remain at 40p. Mr Whelan says: "You just have to be economical with the

truth. You have to say things. You should never lie but it's very difficult. They understand. They will certainly understand tomorrow and forgive me."

The first programme in the series, called *Out of The Shadows* and to be broadcast on ITV next Tuesday at 10.40pm, gives an intimate portrait of Mr Brown's role as co-ordinator of Labour's successful campaign. In the second, *We Are The Treasury*, the cameras are inside the Treasury to record the arrival of Mr Brown on May 2.

One of the themes of the documentary is the central role played by policymakers such as Ed Balls, Mr Brown's economic policy adviser,

and Mr Whelan, and how dominant they are compared with the traditional Treasury mandarins.

The rough cut of the film is believed to contain footage of Mr Balls, a former *Financial Times* journalist, being rude about the Bank of England governors. At another point in the film Mr Whelan suggests to a journalist that if he suggested New Labour would be anything other than tough on public spending "I will come and beat you up".

The cameras were allowed unprecedented access to Mr Brown and the Treasury even as the Budget in July was being prepared.

All the members of the television team involved had to sign detailed confidentiality documents and the tapes were locked in a Scottish Television safe to which only three people had access.

In allowing a television crew into the hallowed corridors of the Treasury during the period of Budget purdah the Chancellor was signalling a new era of greater openness in Government. But he was also taking a huge risk.

If there had been a significant leak of price-sensitive information as a result of the presence of the television team Mr Brown might have had to resign, just as Hugh Dalton, a former Labour Chancellor, did because of a remark to a

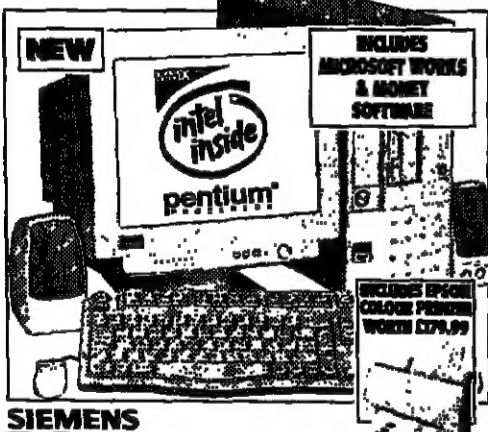
journalist. In fact, there was controversy over apparent briefings about the contents of the Budget but none involving the programme makers.

Scottish Television got its political scoop largely because Mr Brown was once a researcher there.

The first programme also shows the Prime Minister during the election campaign complaining that he cannot make a breakthrough because no one wants to talk about anything else but Tory sleaze and divisions. "It's a nightmare getting anything else out," Mr Blair says in a rare appearance in a portrait dominated by Gordon Brown and life in the modern Treasury.

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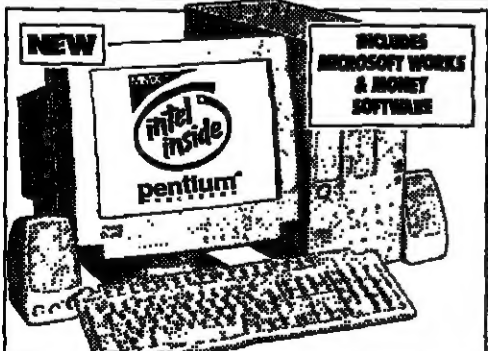
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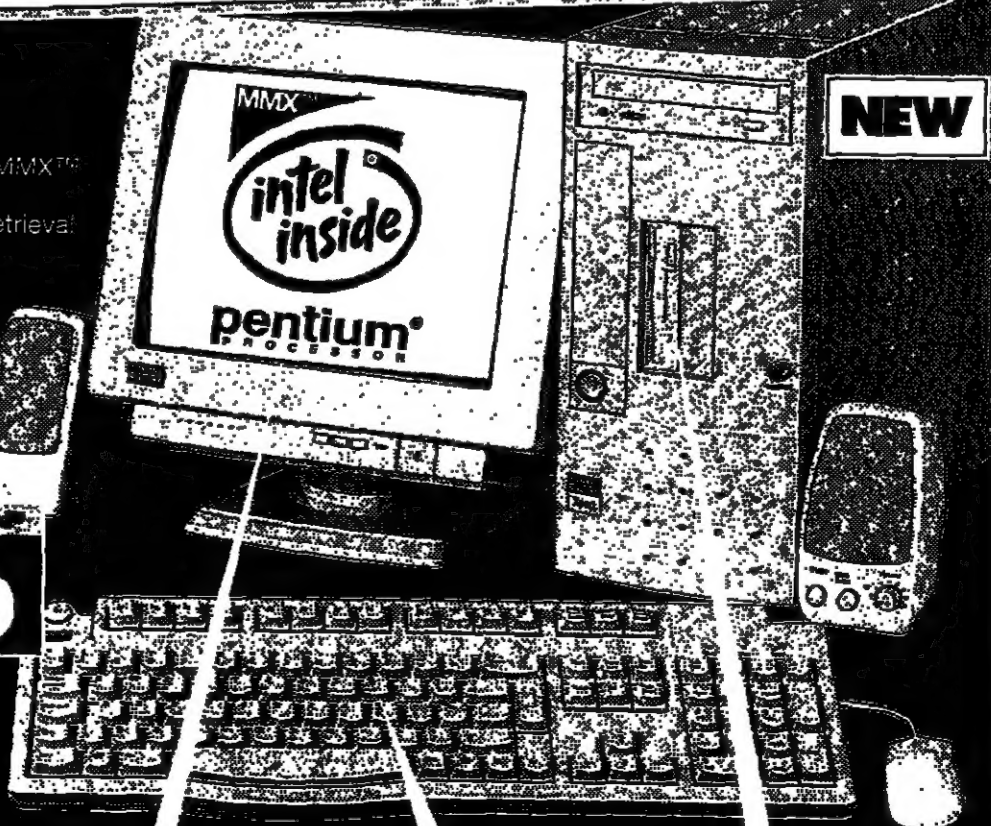
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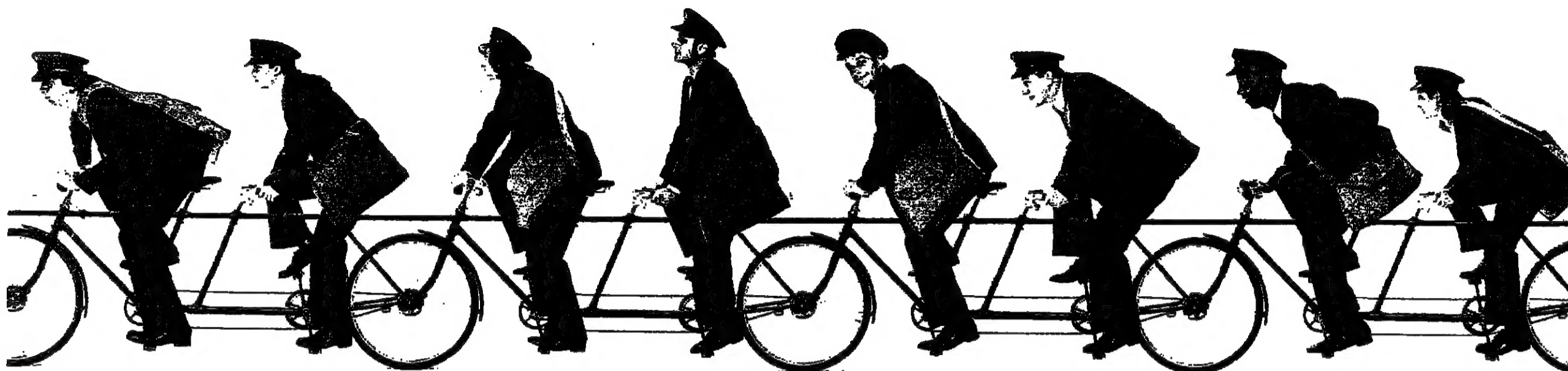
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Straw puts onus on parents to beat child crime

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

JACK STRAW yesterday unveiled the biggest shake-up in the youth justice system for 50 years with measures aimed at forcing parents to take responsibility for unruly children.

The proposals, which include curfews for children under 10, orders making mothers and fathers attend parenting classes and forcing young criminals to apologise and do community work, are intended to "break the excuse culture", Mr Straw said.

Local councils are to be given the power to create curfew areas that bar children from parts of neighbourhoods at specific times. The Home Secretary said that the measures, which will be included in the Crime and Disorder Bill early next year, were essential because for too long young

criminals had believed they could get away with offending. He added that he was trying to end "the approach to young offenders that seeks to excuse their behaviour and the parents who then say, 'What can I do about it?'".

He said that the local child curfews were to help to establish norms of behaviour that were sometimes lacking on some estates, but added: "It is rather depressing that we have got to this pass."

The Government plans to abolish the principle of *doli incapax*, which presumes that children under 14 do not know the difference between right and wrong, and change the system under which police deal with young offenders.

The police cautioning system is to be replaced by a

statutory scheme in which officers give a young offender a police reprimand followed by a final warning. If a child continues to commit crimes, a criminal charge and appearance in court will result.

The orders will be administered by young offender teams made up of police and probation officers, health officials and social workers. They will be introduced in pilot schemes first.

They include the reparation order, in which the offender must help the victim; the parenting order, requiring parents to attend guidance and counselling classes; the action plan order, including staying away from certain areas; the child safety order, where the child risks being drawn into crime; and the local child curfew, for children aged under 10.

During the next few weeks Mr Straw will publish proposals aimed at halving the time it takes from the arrest of a young offender to sentence being imposed. He said the Government was moving towards a radical overhaul of the youth courts with the adoption in England and Wales of a more inquisitorial and less adversarial approach.

The proposals were broadly welcomed by police, penal reform groups and local authorities, although penal reform groups expressed concern that parenting and curfew orders were unlikely to work without the co-operation of parents.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "It is crucial that parents are persuaded to consent to the training. We fear that enforcing curfews on young children could increase tension, risk and even violence amongst many of the poorest households."

"Compulsion and fines will not be effective in changing many of the parents' behaviour."

THE PROPOSED ORDERS

Reparation order: courts will be able to order a young offender to make reparation to the victim lasting a maximum of 24 hours over three months. Reparation could involve writing a letter, apologising in person, weeding a garden or collecting litter. The order could be imposed as a punishment on its own or linked with a fine or curfew.

Parenting order: courts will be able to order parents to attend parenting classes if their child, aged 10-17, is sentenced for a crime or is made subject of a community safety order and if a child under 10 is subject of a child safety order. An order may be imposed where parents are prosecuted for failing to send a child to school.

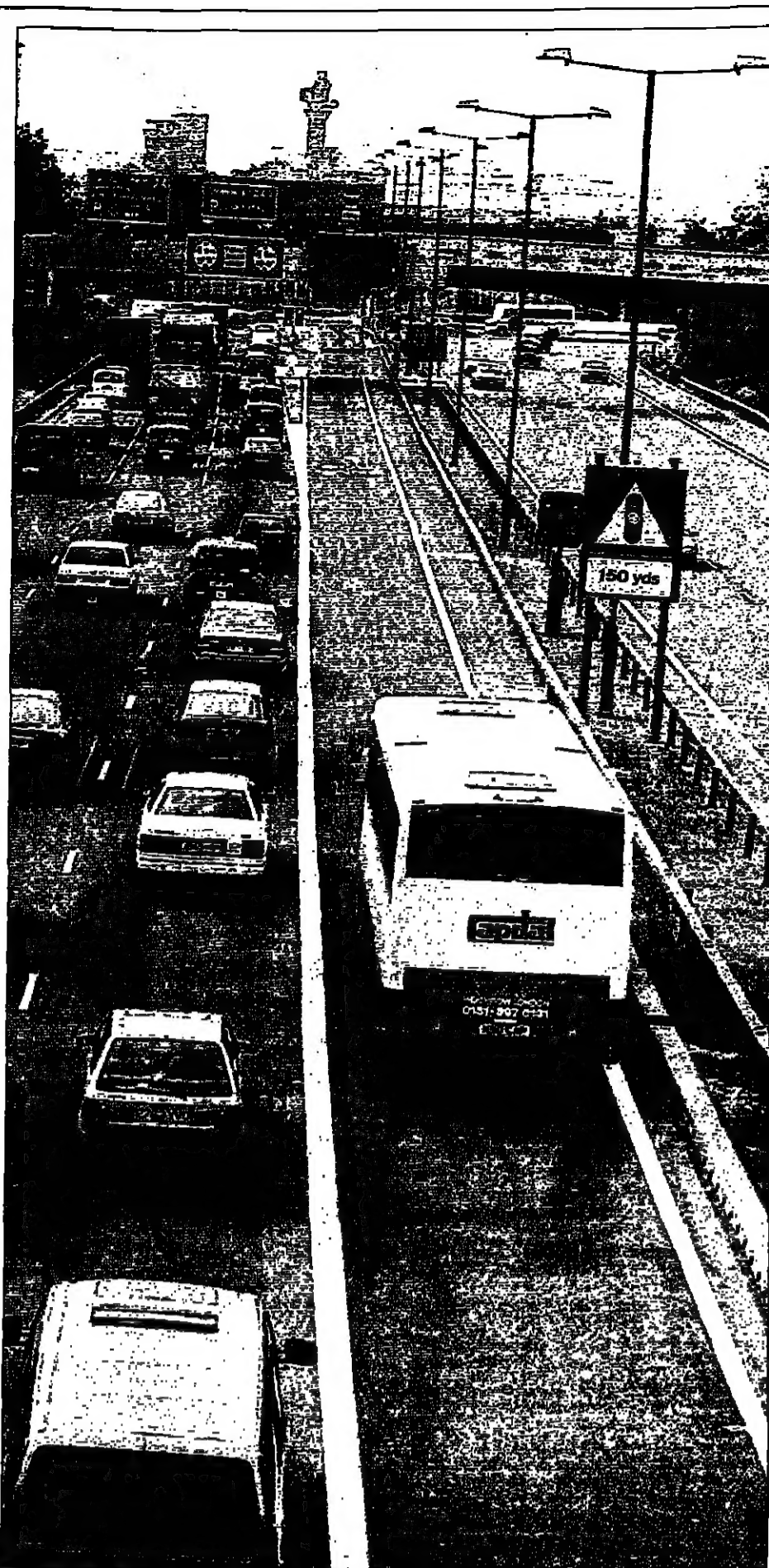
The parenting order would last for a maximum of three months and would require parents to attend counselling and guidance classes at least once a week. Courts will be able to order parents to ensure children are at home between certain hours or are escorted to school. The consent of parents will not be needed for the order to be imposed and a breach will make parents liable to a fine of up to £1,000. The Government does not say whether a parent who does not pay risks being jailed.

Action plan order: a community punishment where a young offender aged 10-17 will be under the supervision of a youth offender team for three months. It could involve making reparations to the victim, staying away from certain areas and specific activities aimed at dealing with difficulties.

Child safety order: targeted at children under 10, it will last three months. The local authority will apply for the order where it fears a child is at risk of involvement in crime because, for example, he or she is out late at night or failing to attend school.

Local child curfew: the local authority will be able to apply for a curfew banning unsupervised children under 10 from a certain area. The curfew may apply at any time. The curfew will last for a maximum of 90 days.

Leading article, page 23



Britain's first motorway bus lane was opened yesterday near Heathrow. It runs for 1.5km between junctions 4 and 4A along the M4 spur road and is designed to ease rush-hour traffic congestion into the airport. More than a hundred buses and coaches an hour are expected to use the £1 million route

Capital's red-light industry moves off the streets

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 5,000 prostitutes have 80,000 clients every week on the streets and in brothels in London, according to a survey published yesterday.

The vice industry, which the study says stretches from the streets of Whitechapel to hostess bars and massage parlours in the West End, has a turnover of about £250 million. But the traditional image of streetwalkers is moving into history as more women operate from flats, massage parlours and saunas, and hostess clubs and bars.

A growing number of women from the Far East, South America and Eastern Europe are employed in hostess clubs which cater for professional men in their early 40s, according to the study published by Middlesex University. Police in London have reported a halving in street prostitution in the past three years, matched by an increase in women working from commercial premises.

Professor Roger Matthews, author of the study, said: "The growing commercialisation of the trade and the development of more discreet and privatised forms will make intervention in commercial sexual activity in the capital much more difficult."

The police "prostitutes index" shows there are 1,100 women "known" to have been involved in street prostitution during the past year but only 635 were actively engaged in vice. Women working in red-light districts had declined in Sreatham, Tottenham, the central West End and King's Cross.

On any one night there are about 115 women working the streets, earning about £300 a week, although those working in wealthier districts can earn much more. A woman working in Whitechapel charges £10 to £40 for her services while in Mayfair the cost is upwards of £100. The report found that women working in hostess bars charged the most.

The study was commissioned by London Weekend Television for the *London Programme*.



Brian Bell: pest success

Pitcairns drive out rats after 500 years

By NICK NUTTALL

ONE of Britain's remotest colonies is now free of rats following an eradication programme that offers hope to the wildlife and inhabitants of thousands of small islands.

The Pitcairn group, home to rare birds and the descendants of Fletcher Christian and the mutinous crew of the *Bounty*, has been infested with rats for 500 years.

Three years ago British scientists on the Sir Peter Scott Commemorative Expedition said that some of the islands' unique birds, like Dark Herald's petrel, were losing the war against rats which eat the chicks.

But yesterday Brian Bell, a pest-control expert employed by the Department of International Development and the World Wide Fund for Nature, said two of the group's four islands were now free of the pests.

He said the success was partly due to political will, the availability of funding and a growing awareness of the need to conserve unique islands. "It is also due to the availability now of second-generation, anti-coagulant, rodenticides," said Mr Bell.

In the past, pest-control experts used chemicals like warfarin, but the rats often became sick before they had taken a lethal dose and would avoid baits.

The Foreign Office and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have joined forces in a £1 million programme to also rid the Atlantic island of Ascension of feral cats and rats.

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Mother Nature shows she knows best

Woodland left alone to regenerate after the storm of 1987 has fared far better than areas replanted at a cost of at least £13m, writes **Lin Jenkins**

NEARLY ten years years after the Great Storm, nature has done a better job of restoring devastated woodland than tree-planting projects costing millions of pounds.

Environmentalists said yesterday that at least £13 million was wasted replacing the estimated 15 million trees that were blown over on the night of October 16, 1987.

Woodlands where fallen timber was left on the ground now have new, 20-ft-high trees and a huge diversity of other flora and fauna in the gaps. But areas where the bulldozers moved in to clear damaged and fallen trees and immediate replanting took place have failed to thrive.

Peter Raine, director of the Kent Wildlife Trust, said: "The temptation was to charge in and clear up the mess that night had made. That was the right thing to do when dangerous trees were in public places, where, say, a Capability Brown landscape had suffered, less the right thing to do with commercial woodland. It was very much the wrong thing to do with ancient semi-woodland."

He said one site replanted with 200 trees ten years ago now had only five still alive. Toys Hill in Sevenoaks, where new planting had taken place, was one example, as was Stammer Park, where Brighton County Council had completely cleared woodland and replanted trees in protective tubes only for them to die.

More than £13 million was spent through Taskforce Trees set up by Nicholas Ridley, the then Environment Secretary, in the aftermath of the most destructive storm in southern England since 1703. More than 2 million trees were planted under the scheme, mostly by local authorities, to replace those felled by the wind. Kent and

Sussex were worst hit. Mr Raine said: "In semi-natural and ancient woodland, even more damage was done by clearing up. It was an extremely wet autumn and winter and the soil was very wet. The soil contained the genetic seedbed and putting bulldozers on that compacted it. You ended up with the sort of plants that grow in car parks — willow herb, bramble, nettles and thistles, rather than the seeds in the soil such as oaks, bluebells, hazel and hawthorn."

Trees planted in the compacted soil died, he said. But woodlands where a non-interventionist approach was taken had witnessed a flurry of growth and promotion of different species. Since the storm, nightjars had returned to clearings in Lymington Forest, near Hythe in Kent, and species of beetle, bat, woodpecker and the rare split-gilled fungus were thriving in unmanaged woodland where they were once rarities. Mr Raine added: "The lesson we have learnt is that we need to stand back."

Dr Nick Brown, of the Oxford Forestry Institute, said that the experiences of the storm had transformed the way woodlands and parklands were managed in Britain. In the past, foresters had planted vast stands of trees which were prone to being blown over.

"A dense forest means each tree tends to rely on each other for wind protection. So when you thin them out after 30 years you can be left with stands of thin spindly spruce which will blow over like matchsticks," he said. The new management techniques for commercial forests involved removing smaller blocks, leaving trees better able to survive gales.

Additional reporting by Nick Nuttall



The Rev John Lawrence and his wife Dawn outside the rebuilt church and, below, the wrecked 1950s building he was glad to see in ruins

The Act of God that made a vicar smile

By **ADRIAN LEE**

IT WAS one of the most embarrassingly wrong public pronouncements ever. Michael Fish, the weather forecaster, had told millions of viewers: "A woman rang to say she'd heard a hurricane was on the way. Well, if you're watching, there isn't."

The day after, when the storm was still raging, a sense of shock and gloom overwhelmed the Met Office, said Nigel Reed, then a researcher.

Mr Reed, 42, now deputy to the head of the National Meteorological Centre, said yesterday: "It was a blow to the forecaster's morale. We thought of ourselves as among the best in the world and here was major devastation. We realised that, given the information we had, we could have done things better, so I suppose there was guilt."

In 1987 the Met Office forecast strong winds over France and the Channel. "With the benefit of hindsight we were trying to be too precise," Mr Reed said.

"With winds that close to the English coast we should have realised there would be problems inland."

He remembered feeling sorry for Mr Fish. "The forecast is done by a team and it was a case of shooting the messenger."

Despite his remark, Mr Fish has prospered since. He has been promoted and can

command several thousand pounds as an after-dinner speaker.

Not that his error troubled the Reverend John Lawrence, one of the few people in southern England who slept through the entire storm. After spending the night ten miles from his home in Rochester, Kent, he picked his way along roads littered by debris to find his church, St Justus, virtually demolished.

During the next four years the church was rebuilt, with the cost of £850,000 covered by insurers. A plaque in the new building commemorates the storm.

Mr Lawrence said: "I have to admit I was thrilled when



I first saw the church. It had been built fairly badly in the 1950s and we would have liked to have started again anyway. Without the storm it would never have been allowed, but God did it for us."

David Rhoder had a rather more frightening experience. He was sitting in a car when live power cables, weakened by the storm, came crashing down, trapping him and a workmate in Pulborough, West Sussex.

For ten minutes he sat

fearing he would be electrocuted, before PC Brian Charman arrived and used a wooden broom to lift the lines.

"We were terrified of touching anything metal," Mr Rhoder, 35, said. "We were stuck for only a few minutes but it seemed like forever."

"When we eventually got out I was shaking, but I managed to go back to work next day. Looking back, I realise what a narrow escape it was."

Case of hanged seaman is to be reviewed

By **RICHARD FORD**
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A SEAMAN who was hanged 45 years ago for the murder of a shopkeeper is to have his case reviewed by the Court of Appeal after a campaign by his widow to prove his innocence.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission admitted yesterday that new evidence called into question the safety of the conviction. Laura Mattan has fought to get a posthumous pardon for her husband, who was hanged in Cardiff jail in 1952, seven weeks after being convicted of killing Lily Volpert, whose throat was cut during a robbery at her shop in Cardiff docks.

Lawyers for the family said yesterday that it was "beyond belief" that Mahmood Mattan, a 28-year-old Somali seaman, had been executed.

The lawyers, who have given their services free, sent a detailed legal submission to Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, last year. It was then transferred to the review commission when it began operating last April.

The commission said yesterday that there was "sufficient evidence, which was not available to the defence at the trial and appeal proceedings, to call into question the safety of this conviction". The evidence shed doubt on identification that "was central to the case".

Mattan, described by his lawyer at his trial in Swansea as "a half-child of nature, a semi-civilised savage", was convicted on the identification evidence of one witness and blood found on one shoe.

In their application to the commission, the family's solicitors said that Mattan had had no legal advice on his arrest, during interviews or while on identity parades.

They claim that evidence from a key prosecution witness given in court differed from a statement he made to police and that he had received a monetary reward.

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THE NEW V8 XJ SERIES.

School test marks higher, but boys could do better

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CONCERN over slow progress in improving boys' literacy overshadowed better results overall in national tests for 7, 11 and 14-year-olds yesterday. For the first time more than 60 per cent of 11-year-olds reached the average score or better in English, mathematics and science.

However far fewer boys than girls made the grade in English at all three ages for national testing.

The figures were hailed by the Government as a major step towards its target that by 2002 some 80 per cent of 11-year-olds should reach the average level in English and 75 per cent in mathematics.

In this summer's tests, 63 per cent of 11-year-olds gained the required grades in English, up from 58 per cent last year, and 62 per cent made the grade in mathematics, up from 54 per cent. The success rate in science was 69 per cent, compared with 62 per cent last year.

Estelle Morris, a Junior Education Minister, said: "I particularly welcome these improvements as they confirm that our ambitious literacy and numeracy targets are achievable. However, there is much work to do."

Only 57 per cent of the 11-



Morris: ambitious targets achievable

year-old boys compared with 69 per cent of girls made the expected grade in English, up from 58 per cent last year, and 62 per cent made the grade in mathematics, up from 54 per cent.

Ms Morris added: "Girls continue to do better in English tests, with 66 per cent of them achieving the expected level or better by the age of 14, compared with 47 per cent for boys. We shall continue our work to ensure that we tackle boys' under-achievement."

The Government has made raising literacy levels a priority and has recommended a daily literacy hour at every

primary school and summer schools for the weakest 11-year-olds. Figures for attendance of the trial summer schools this year are expected to show that far more boys attended than girls.

At age seven, tests in reading and writing and mathematics showed slight improvement, with 80 per cent achieving the expected level or above in each. A total of 84 per cent succeeded in mathematics but seven-year-olds did less well in spelling, with only 62 per cent achieving satisfactory results.

Words that caused the most confusion for seven-year-olds included *weather, lights, anything, quickly, luckily, hurt and garage*.

At age 14, the proportion of all children doing as well as expected or better fell slightly in English, from 57 per cent last year to 56 per cent, but it improved in mathematics and science, from 57 per cent to 60 per cent in both cases.

The Government will not repeat last year's exercise to publish league tables for 11-year-olds, which cost £1.3 million. However all local authorities will be required to publish results for primary schools in January.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "These results provide a good basis for the assault on the Government's demanding national targets. They will also have a spin-off that will improve achievement at GCSE and A level. They will do much to improve the morale of a teaching profession that has been battered by too much criticism for too long."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, also welcomed the results, which he said were "hard to square with some of the more apocalyptic announcements coming out of Ofsted, the schools inspectorate". He added: "It is now time for cool analysis of the conditions that help to create success rather than falling back on blanket criticism of teaching and teachers."



Ruth Miskin, head teacher of Kobi Nazrul primary school, with some of her successful seven-year-olds

Fast-track Bangladeshis who go from 0 to 100% in English

Systematic teaching that aims to show that reading is fun has paid off, reports David Charter

A PRIMARY school in the heart of London's Bangladeshi community where almost all pupils learn English as a second language recorded a 100 per cent success rate in the literacy tests.

Virtually every pupil at Kobi Nazrul School, Whitechapel, arrives speaking only Bengali. In this summer's tests for seven-year-olds, they all reached national targets for reading and writing and half reached the level of nine-year-olds.

Their success was put down to an hour a day spent on "systematic and rigorous" learning of the basics, underpinned by the phonics approach. Children learn the basic letter sounds and combinations and how to use them to construct words, rather than being taught to recognise whole words, as in the "Look and say" method. Ruth

Miskin, the head teacher, said: "The whole thrust of our approach is that reading is brilliant and it is also fun to work out words."

"The sooner they learn to read, the more they enjoy reading. The more they enjoy, the better they become."

The school is in Tower Hamlets, which came 116th out of 119 local authorities in last year's tests for 11-year-olds. Nearly two-thirds of the pupils have free school meals, an indicator of poverty.

Nationally in last summer's tests for seven-year-olds, 78 per cent of children gained level two or above in reading.

79 per cent in writing and 82 per cent in mathematics. Few inner-city primary schools score 100 per cent in all three.

Kobi Nazrul, named after a Bengali poet, was opened only three years ago, and its 27 seven-year-olds were its first group to take the tests this summer.

Most of the children join the nursery class at three, spending 20 minutes a day on literacy, rising to an hour by the time they are 4½. "We believe if they can learn to decode the alphabetic system early on, they can access meaning more quickly," Mrs Miskin said. "The children

learn basic letter sounds correspondences, so that when they leave the nursery they are already up to the level of a child from a professional home where parents have taught them that already. We teach them how to get into words and then introduce meaning."

A reading team of three classroom assistants, trained by Ms Miskin, helps each class during its literacy hour. The class divides into groups according to progress and the hour is split between word exercises and reading books.

"The idea is to work through phonics quickly so they can move on to more complex spelling patterns, so when they come across words like *daddy* they learn to spell it with double d," Ms Miskin said. "They learn lots of rhymes so their oral English is good as well."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scottish birds of prey given protection

The Government has stepped up its efforts to protect rare birds of prey, including the golden eagle, peregrine falcon and osprey, in Scotland.

The Scottish environment minister Lord Sewel announced yesterday that a further three mountain regions — the Cairngorms, Caenlochan and the Drumochter Hills — had been given the status of Special Protection Area, bringing the total to 77.

Wheelchair hit

An 83-year-old man was critically ill in North Tyneside General Hospital yesterday after his quadriplegic wheelchair was in collision with a Honda Civic as he drove it along the A1058 from Newcastle.

Fatal shot

The head greenkeeper at a golf club died in a shotgun accident in front of his son, David Spurdin, was cutting rabbits at Ganton Golf Club, near Scarborough. The death is not being treated as suspicious.

End of the line

A collection of Hornby-Dublo trains and track equipment spanning the entire production from 1938 until the company was taken over by Triang in 1964 fetched £75,000 at Sotheby's in West Sussex.

Belfast raid

Three masked robbers used a police car stolen from a garage where it was being serviced to hold up a security van at a Belfast bank. They made off with £20,000. Shots were fired but nobody was injured.

Church truths

Many churchgoing teenagers lie, watch 18-rated films, get drunk and smoke, a survey by the Christian group Agapé says. However, they were more concerned with morality than their non-Christian peers.

WORLD CLASS AT MATHS AND SCIENCE

English 13-year-olds are among the best in the world at applying mathematics and science skills, according to *The Times Educational Supplement* today. Only Singapore performed better in a 19-country survey of practical tasks.

Fifty schools in England undertook 12 practical tasks, such as weighing and measuring and using scientific instruments. Scottish 13-year-olds came joint sixth with Romania, also behind Switzerland, Australia and Sweden. The results came 24

hours after Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, urged teachers to concentrate more on traditional maths skills after a poor showing in the recent Third International Maths and Science Study, in which English children came tenth out of 17 countries in mathematics and fifth in science.

The tests in English schools were funded by the Office for Standards in Education and were carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research.

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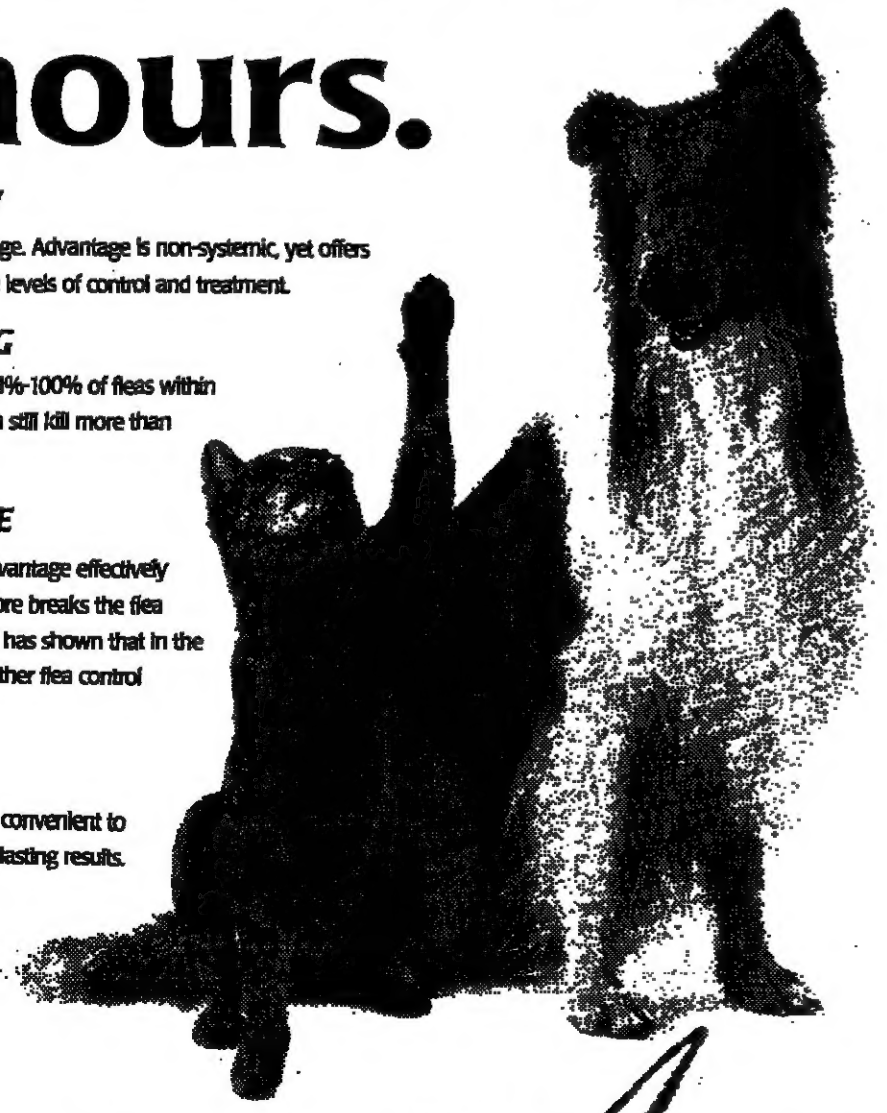
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£4,000 TO BE WON TODAY — TURN TO THE EQUITY PRICES, PAGE 32

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THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

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The weekly accumulator game started in *The Times* on Monday. To play the weekly accumulator game simply add up your daily Portfolio totals, Monday to Sunday. If your accumulator total matches exactly the weekly portfolio accumulator dividend, published in the *Sunday Times*, you win or share the weekly accumulator prize of £10,000.

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*You can get a Portfolio card by calling the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. Cards are also available at selected newsagents.

THE TIMES

Mercy for mother who killed her sick baby

By Russell Jenkins

A MOTHER who was found guilty of killing her severely handicapped 14-month-old daughter by pulling out a breathing tube walked from court yesterday after she was given an 18-month prison sentence suspended for two years.

Julie Watts, 31, a former psychiatric nurse, had already been cleared by a jury at Manchester Crown Court of murder but was convicted on an alternative charge of manslaughter.

She sobbed in the dock as the judge, Mr Justice Sachs, told her that no civilised society could condone what she had done to her daughter Abigail, who was born with a devastating combination of handicaps.

However, Mr Justice Sachs said that the exceptional circumstances merited a suspended sentence. He said: "What you did was seriously wrong. If anyone thinks the sentence I am about to pass is any indication of approval of euthanasia or anything of that kind, they are in error."

Watts, sobbing violently, was led away by her family and her solicitor, Kristina Harrison, who said that she intended to appeal. Her client had been heartened by an overwhelming response from the public, who believed it was "totally wrong to persecute her in this way".

She said that Watts's reaction after her conviction was "shock that anybody could believe she could possibly have harmed her daughter Abigail. She has been totally devastated by the conviction."

The jury heard how Abigail was born with a rare skull deformity, called clover leaf syndrome, which left her brain-damaged, deformed, partially sighted, deaf and unable to breathe or feed without help. She could not even close her eyes.

Throughout the 14 months

of her life, her mother was constantly at her side providing around-the-clock care in and out of hospital. She sat up with her daughter through the night, changing her dressing and, on at least one occasion, saved her life with emergency resuscitation.

The court was told that shortly before Abigail was to have returned home after a two-night stay in July 1995, staff at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital heard Watts crying for help.

The nurses found that the tracheotomy tube attached to Abigail's throat had been pulled out, the tapes securing it having been untied.

Mr Justice Sachs explained to Watts, of Little Hulton, Greater Manchester, that the manslaughter verdict meant that the jury thought she intended to harm her daughter but not to kill her.

He told her: "You have been a caring and concerned mother. You have fought tooth and nail for your daughter. There was a burden of awesome proportions thrust upon you and there has been not one word of criticism of your care for Abigail throughout the trial."

"Death resulted from what you did and no civilised society can condone that even though they may have a huge amount of sympathy for you."

"The suspended sentence is not intended as a cosmetic solution but to mark disapproval of what you did. I can only pass a suspended sentence these days if the circumstances are exceptional. They are."

Ms Harrison said that Watts had been heartened by the public's messages of support, not least those from other mothers who found themselves caring for a child in a similar plight.

Euthanasia debate, page 13



Descendants of Long Wolf walk behind his casket after the exhumation in London yesterday of the Sioux chief and Star, an Indian infant who also died in 1892

Chief returns to Black Hills of Dakota

By a Staff Reporter

A SIOUX chief began the journey back to his ancestral grounds in the Black Hills of Dakota yesterday, a century after he died in London while touring in a wild west show.

The battle-scarred Long Wolf, who had ridden in "Buffalo Bill" Cody's Wild West show, was exhumed from his grave at Brompton Cemetery, west London, to the beat of a single drum and the chants of his descendants. With him was the body of 17-month-old Star, daughter of Ghost Dog, who died when she fell from a horse during a performance in London in 1892.

The two were members of the Oglala Sioux tribe and their single casket will be taken to the burial grounds at Pine Ridge Reservation close to Wounded Knee, scene of a massacre in 1890 by the United States cavalry.

The casket, covered by a Sioux flag and the Stars and Stripes, was carried on a black cart pulled by two black horses. Behind, wearing feather bonnets and bright Indian jackets and blankets, walked relatives and a shaman.

Long Wolf and Star were buried by Cody in Brompton Cemetery



The casket is taken from Brompton Cemetery on the first stage of its journey to the burial grounds

among admirals and generals and the fallen soldiers of Wellington's Peninsular War. The 59-year-old chief was, according to family legend, one of the warriors who wiped out General Custer's 7th Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876. US forces later

smashed the Sioux nation and forced survivors into reservations, but Long Wolf calmed in Buffalo Bill's show rather than submit to confinement.

During performances at Earl's Court, Long Wolf became ill and died. Before his death in 1892 he

asked for a picture of a wolf to be carved on his gravestone. Six Indians carried his coffin to the grave, for which Cody had paid £23.

An Englishwoman, Elizabeth Knight, from Bromsgrove, Hereford and Worcester, heard of the

chief's fate and spent six years looking for the grave. She then tracked down his descendants. Yesterday John Black Feather, Long Wolf's great grandson, walked proudly behind the coffin.

Later the casket was taken to St Luke's parish church near by for a service of thanksgiving that included a funeral drum beat and the chant of Dakota Sioux songs. More than 200 parishioners joined the ceremony, during which Wilmer Mesch, the tribal medicine man, said prayers.

John Black Feather said later: "I don't know how to thank our friends who have reunited us with Long Wolf and Star." His wife, Judith, said: "It was a wonderful service and I am really glad it happened."

Mrs Knight, who spoke during the service, said: "When I found the grave I made a promise that he would go home. I know Long Wolf longed to be at home at the foot of his beloved Black Hills."

Long Wolf's family still owe hundreds of pounds towards the cost of taking their ancestors back home. More than £12,000 was raised in Britain towards their exhumation and the funeral company gave its services and the Atlantic crossing free.

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First 100 days fail to create party mood

Andrew Pierce looks back on the shaky start to William Hague's leadership of the Conservative Party

WILLIAM HAGUE marks his 100th day as Tory leader today but has ordered his staff not to lay on any celebrations. He could have saved his breath. None of them needed to be told. While the Labour leadership trumpeted Tony Blair's first 100 days in office the Tory party has ignored today's milestone.

One Shadow Cabinet minister said yesterday: "I don't think this is one anniversary we need to herald. There is far too much important work to do."

Tory backbenchers agree. While the Prime Minister's honeymoon has shown no sign of ending, Mr Hague has been subjected to criticism from backbench MPs and party activists over his reform programme.

But his credibility suffered most damage over the accusation that Tony Blair had exploited the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, for party political gain.

It all began so promisingly when Mr Hague surprised the

pundits to win the leadership election by a more decisive margin than had been predicted. Mr Hague, 36, proved adept at winning votes again when, against the odds, the Tories comfortably held Uxbridge in the first-by-election of the new Parliament. The Opposition leader also scored well at the dispatch box at Prime Minister's Question Time. When the House rose at the end of July Mr Hague was earning favourable reviews.

But the youngest Tory leader for 200 years has had a much more torrid time outside the hothouse of the Palace of Westminster. A string of unfortunate photo-opportunities has done much of the damage.

While Margaret Thatcher's handbag became the most enduring political symbol of the 1980s Mr Hague's first 100 days may be most closely associated with the baseball cap that made its debut at a theme park.

Despite having appalled the Tory old guard with his choice of hat, which has been sneer-



The baseball hat that so upset the old guard, Mr Hague and his fiancée at Notting Hill and, in contrast, the official face of the Tory leader

ingly referred to in every media interview, Mr Hague has no plans to stop wearing it.

An appearance at the Notting Hill carnival with Fionn Jenkins, his fiancée, in matching khaki outfits was also ridiculed by some press commentators.

The public relations gaffes

followed thick and fast. A picture of Mr Hague in a lifejacket inevitably led to comparisons between him and the captain of a sinking ship. Days later the new leader of the Thatcherite Right was pictured next to a car bearing the slogan: "Overtake on the left." But his reputation went seriously downhill after Buck-

ingham Palace denied his allegation that the Prime Minister had leaked details of confidential discussions with the Queen.

Relations between Central Office and Mr Hague's private office deteriorated sharply over who was to blame. The result was the resignation of yet another Conservative com-

munications director, Francis Haleswood.

More trouble lies ahead with the ballot on Mr Hague's leadership and proposed party reforms. Although 400,000 forms were distributed barely 100,000 have been returned. He is expected to win 90 per cent of the vote but many of his advisers fear that the low

turnout will undermine him further.

But it's not all bad. In a speech last night Mr Hague hailed one small positive benefit of the first 100 days: "There are today 24 more Conservative councillors than there were three months ago." Some of his critics would suggest that he is too easily pleased.

Parkinson warns of a bleak future

By NICHOLAS WATT

LORD PARKINSON warned the Tories yesterday that they faced a "bleak future" out of office unless they endorsed party reforms and broadened their membership.

The party chairman said that Tories must learn from their defeat because they were seen as "divided, out of touch, and arrogant". He added: "Unless we address these concerns, we face a long and unhappy period out of office... Unless we look at ourselves with the same critical eyes that were cast upon us by so many electors in recent years we will not be able to begin to address the problem."

Lord Parkinson, writing in *Parliamentary Review*, said the mood at next month's conference would not be gloomy, but emphasised that May 1 had been a disaster, with many voting Labour when previously they would have never dreamt of doing so.

Tories to set up office network

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tories are planning to set up a new network of offices across the country in the biggest reorganisation of the party since the war.

Eight regional offices, which were set up only five years ago by Sir Norman Fowler when he was party chairman, are to be closed with the loss of an undisclosed number of jobs. The party will replace them for the first time in its history with offices based on the county map of England, Wales, and Scotland. Each one will be manned by an agent who will be responsible for the co-ordination of political activity.

Loss-making constituency associations, with dwindling membership, will be encouraged to close and merge into the new county structure. Prosperous associations will operate independently of the new county hierarchy, which will report directly to Central Office.

The first of the redundancy notices have already been

handed out at Central Office. The proposed changes, which are in the "green paper" for party reform which will be presented to the party conference next month, are described by Central Office officials as among the most important to the future of the party.

William Hague, the party leader, in a recent speech declared: "Our regional structure needs to be refined. We need smaller regions that people can identify with and which reflect local county boundaries."

Archie Norman, the party vice-chairman in charge of organisational reforms, has delivered the details of the proposed new structure. A Central Office task force headed by Mr Norman has concluded that only 30 per cent of the country is covered by the party machine. A party official said: "It is dire. The county structure will ensure a uniform presence across the country."

Glasgow pride will not fade without a roar

By MAGNUS LINKLATER

LABOUR'S decision to crack down on council sleaze in Glasgow has split the city down the middle and forced a showdown between the reformers of new Labour and the last bastion of the party's old guard.

By suspending the entire council leadership, including Pat Lally, the Lord Provost, the national executive in London has struck at the very heart of the city's powerbase. Not since the days when Militant was challenged in Liverpool has there been a political standoff to match it.

Mr Lally has refused to quit and is threatening legal action. His deputy, Alex Mossor, has served a writ and promised to fight his suspension in the Court of Session. More of the nine ousted councillors are contemplating legal action.

More seriously, there are growing signs of anger in the city itself. Some have accused Labour of taking draconian action on the basis of random allegations that have yet to be proved. Unless the evidence produced is compelling, they say, there will be strong reaction against the way in which the city's reputation has been smeared.

The national executive's inquiry team has homed in on a range of charges: trips made by councillors, the use of the council's "common good" fund, the granting of political favours, a lack of accountability in administering the hospitality budget, and delays in preparing accounts. On the surface, they hardly sound like corruption on the grand scale - not enough to end the political careers of nine long-serving councillors.

But this is about the use and abuse of power rather than the minor details of sleaze itself. Glasgow has been a Labour stronghold since 1951. With the creation of Strathclyde Re-

gional Council in 1974, it became the centre of a local authority covering nearly half the population of Scotland, employing 85,000 people, with a budget of more than £2 billion, and an office in Brussels. From the economic disaster that followed the loss of its main industries - steel and shipbuilding - it transformed itself into the 1990 City of Culture.

Throughout most of this period Mr Lally and his cohorts were in charge, and Labour was happy to hail them as party heroes, saving Glasgow from a fate worse than Liverpool. But with the trappings of success went a centralisation of power that overreached itself. It gave rise to charges of "Tammany Hall" politics, and created deeply-divided factions within the council. Decisions were made on the say-so of a few powerful individuals. Patronage was extended and withheld at will.

Above all, the council stood for everything that new Labour detested. For Tony Blair, in particular, it symbolised the excesses and secretiveness of the old party he was pledged to purge. By the time he was elected, Glasgow's image had in any event begun to slip. Local government reorganisation had cut its financial base, and revealed budget deficits which led to wholesale reduction of services, closing of museums, axing of jobs. Instead of having to take on a united local party, he found himself confronting a power base that was crumbling.

No one doubts that Mr Blair will win this battle. But he will not do so without a fight. Glasgow's political leaders have been dealt a stunning and very public blow that has deeply damaged their reputations. There is nothing more dangerous in politics than wounded pride.

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Ashdown hails party 'watershed'

By Polly Newton

PADDY ASHDOWN hailed the Liberal Democrat conference yesterday as one of the most successful ever and "a genuine watershed" for the party.

Speaking to journalists as the conference drew to a close, the party leader acknowledged that he had not enjoyed an easy ride over his determination to work closely with the Government on some issues. But, he said, the party had proved that it would not be marginalised.

"We have discussed some very difficult issues, particularly in relation to party strategy... It has been extremely successful in getting across to the wider public exactly what constructive opposition means."

However, the final conference session suggested that dissent will continue among party activists. A delegate from Cambridge, David Howarth, tried unsuccessfully to secure an emergency debate about Liberal Democrat links with Labour.

Mr Howarth, who wanted discussion of a motion that would have ruled out coalition with Labour for the lifetime of this Parliament, said: "We have heard a lot this week about where we are going, both inside the hall and outside. But as a conference we have not had a chance to debate and decide."

"What we desperately need is some clarity."



Sir Ludovic Kennedy yesterday, leading the call for a change in the law

Lib Dems back review of law on euthanasia

Polly Newton hears a campaigner's plea for legislation to allow the terminally ill to 'cease upon the midnight with no pain'

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday backed a review of the law that forbids doctors to help terminally ill patients to die.

Delegates at the party's conference in Eastbourne supported a controversial motion urging the Government to establish a royal commission on voluntary euthanasia. The motion called for an investigation into the implications of a change in the law "to permit doctors to accede openly to repeated requests from suffering and terminally ill patients to die instead of having to help them secretly as at present".

The party leader, Paddy Ashdown, who did not vote on yesterday's motion, insisted afterwards that the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia would remain a matter of conscience for individual MPs. He said he was personally against it but revealed that his wife, Jane, took the opposite view.

Leading the calls for a royal commission and a change in the law was the writer and broadcaster Sir Ludovic Kennedy. He said that modern

medicine helped people to live longer but also drew out the process of death.

"What it has not done for many of the dying is improve their quality of life. There are thousands of old people who have had enough of living. My mother was one of them."

Some were in uncontrollable pain and some suffered the "gradual disintegration" of mind and body. "What these people want, in the words of the great poet Keats, is 'to cease upon the midnight with no pain'. But, as the law stands, that is forbidden to them."

Sir Ludovic said a change in the law would end mercy killings of one member of a family by another. Opponents of the move argued that fam-

ilies of the ill and infirm could put pressure on doctors if they were fed up with caring for a relative or wanted an inheritance. "I ask those who believe that, do you seriously think that any group of British doctors would even consider helping someone to die other than on strictly medical grounds?"

He quoted the Pope, who said in 1980 that suffering in the last stage of life was part of God's saving plan for humanity. "A view which I find medieval in its thinking and cruel in its lack of compassion."

Tim Pascall from Brussels said that, as a homosexual man, he had seen many friends die from Aids. Some had wanted to commit suicide towards the end but were too frail. "We grant the strong the right to take their own lives but deny it to the weak. Do we have that right? We must demand the freedom to die as much as the freedom to live."

Lesley O'Connell from Sutton said that she had lost many members of her family, including her husband five years ago, so she did not fear death. "But I admit to fears about the manner of my dying. I want to have the right to choose. I don't wish to put my caring doctor at risk under the law as she is today, and I wouldn't wish my beloved daughter to suffer those additional burdens of pain and guilt should that decision have to be hers."

Opposing the motion, Dooreen Darby from Wiltshire said doctors already did what they thought was best for the patient. "I fear the slippery slope which we may go down if we change the law."

David Rogers, chairman of the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum, was booed when

he suggested that fundholding GPs, who control part of their own budgets, might be more inclined to support the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia.

"Much of our health service these days is controlled by the decisions of cost and funding," he said. "We all know that it would be easier to help somebody, more cost-effective, if we helped them go away."

James Fison from Oldham East and Saddleworth said one of the strongest reasons for opposing capital punishment was the unacceptability of killing even one innocent person. "Just as it would be a scandal for even one innocent person to be put to death, so it would be a scandal for even one person to be put to death when not mentally competent to make that choice, and for even one person to be put to



death who, as it turns out, has a perfectly curable disease."

John Thomson from Devises said: "This party should beware of passing a conscience motion which will divide Liberal Democrat from Liberal Democrat. It will cause considerable problems for some of us if it goes ahead."

Later, the campaigning group Healthcare Opposed to Euthanasia dismissed the vote as "an empty victory" for the pro-euthanasia lobby. Its chairman, Dr Andrew Ferguson, said: "To set up a royal commission would be a waste of time and taxpayers' money only three years after a House of Lords select committee unanimously rejected any suggestion of changing the law."

A Downing Street spokesman said the Government did not believe there was any need for a royal commission on the matter.

There is a safe way to revive local democracy

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have this week shown the limits to their often expressed enthusiasm for local government — when this clashes with their own self-interests.

Local government is neglected in the constitutional reform debate. Hardly anyone any longer disputes the desirability of reviving local authorities after the battering and neglect of the Thatcher and Major years. Even more enlightened Tories like David Willets and Chris Patten (in a recent review of Lord Alexander's thoughtful book on constitutional reform *The Voice of the People*) now urge a regeneration of local democracy.

The Government has already announced some minor relaxations in controls on local authorities and is consulting on more important ones, such as the end of compulsory competitive tendering. There is, inevitably, a "review" of central-local government relations. There are two related problems — the democratic legitimacy of local authorities and their financial independence. They now raise so little of their resources in taxation under their control that there is a weak connection between voters and town hall decisions.

Voters will only care, and turn out, when they see that their councillor has real power. But is the Treasury willing to reverse the habits of more than 20 years and allow local authorities freedom over levels of taxation and expenditure, as happens in most other countries? And, equally, are there sufficient political checks on councils dominated by one party? After the recent allegations about misconduct and incompetence by councillors in Doncaster, Paisley, Glasgow, Hackney and several other Labour-run authorities, few would want to give councils more power unconditionally.

Any loosening of controls on local councils must be accompanied by measures to ensure that greater powers will not be abused. Tony Blair has responded imaginatively with his proposal for directly elected mayors, starting in London, as a step towards restoring civic identification and pride. In his idiosyncratic way Ken Livingstone showed what can

PETER RIDDELL

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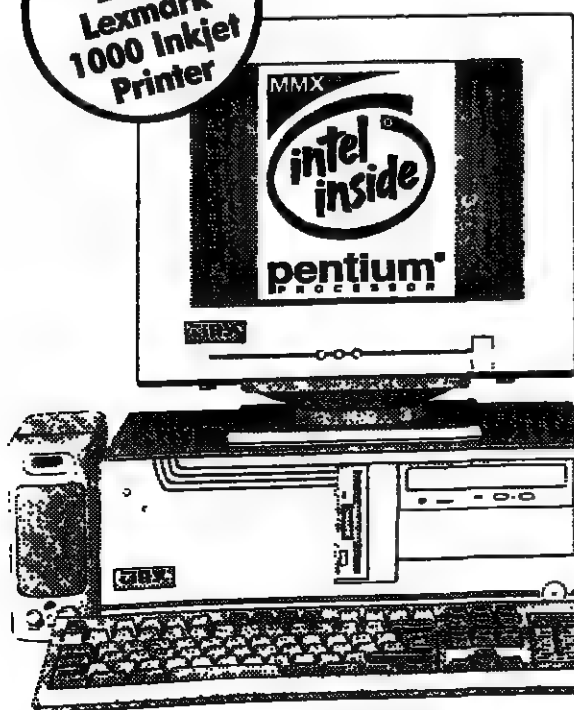


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Brazil finds \$4m Nazi gold in bank

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

A FORTUNE in gold watches, jewellery and gold teeth and fillings, deposited in a Brazilian bank safe by a reclusive German pawnbroker who died 14 years ago, could be the first evidence to prove long-held suspicions that Brazil was a haven for Nazi loot.

The \$4 million (£2.5 million) haul has attracted the attention of a commission made up of Jewish community leaders, judicial authorities and lawyers. The commission is investigating Nazi war criminals who fled here during and after the Second World War, who are believed to have transferred millions into accounts at the Banco do Brasil, which was formerly Brazil's central bank.

Albert Blume, believed by some to have been a German-born Nazi spy sent to Brazil in 1938, was buried in a poor man's grave in São Paulo. After the war he is said to have set up a pawnbroking business in a district inhabited by German immigrants and ac-

ed as an agent for Nazis who smuggled stolen Jewish gold into Brazil.

A loner and an outcast from his family, his case might have gone unnoticed had it not been for Margarida Blume, 95, an aunt who embarked on a legal battle to get her hands on the fortune he left behind.

Historians and investiga-



Mengele: lived in Brazil for 11 years

tors say the safe is filled with hundreds of gold fillings, gold bars and ornate jewellery. The investigating commission has issued legal demands to analyse the contents of the safe.

"We have asked for the opening of the safe and want to analyse the golden items carefully. Lists of what is in there have been published, but we need to confirm and see whether some of the pieces can be identified," said Henry Sobel, the Chief Rabbi in Brazil, who also heads the commission.

"It is the first tangible evidence to come to light, but we feel it is just the tip of the iceberg," he said. "We know that the Brazilian Government at the time sympathised with fleeing Nazis and collaborated with criminals who wanted to deposit the property of European Jews in banks here."

The Government of President Cardoso set up the commission and is keen to fulfil demands from the country's

150,000-strong Jewish community that details of Nazi funds in Brazilian banks be unearthed.

Nazi-hunters say more than \$15 million of stolen Jewish wealth lies in dormant accounts. Senhor Cardoso has in recent weeks ordered the declassification of bank and ministry archives which might further the search. The commission, with the help of the World Jewish Congress, has identified 14 dormant Nazi accounts.

Brazil also played a key role in "Operation Odessa", the German plan to smuggle Nazis into South America.

Among the Nazi fugitives in Brazil was Josef Mengele, the so-called "Angel of Death", who performed "medical" experiments on Jews in Auschwitz. He lived and worked as a doctor in the southern state of Paraná for 11 years. Mengele is believed to have died in São Paulo in 1979, but the Brazilian press did not report the fact until the late 1980s.



John Lennon, whose peace message brought him to the FBI's attention when he moved to New York

FBI documents lift veil on Lennon's subversive parrot

BY JAMES BONE

THE FBI has released secret records about its surveillance of John Lennon which reveal that the former Beatle's group of anti-war activists once had a parrot that shrieked "Right On!" and tried to teach it obscenities.

All but ten pages of the agency's 300-page dossier on the singer were handed to Jon Wiener, a California history professor and Lennon biographer, after a 14-year court battle, along with \$204,000 (£127,000) in compensation to cover his legal fees.

Mr Wiener, the author of the 1984 book *Come Together: John Lennon in His Time*, says the documents prove the FBI knew Lennon's anti-Vietnam War activities were non-violent when it investigated him in 1971-72. He plans to press the agency to disclose the final ten pages of its dossier under the Freedom of Information Act, though it says that would compromise national security.

"All Lennon was saying was 'Give peace a chance'," Mr Wiener, 53, a teacher at the University of California at

Irvine, told *The New York Times*. "The FBI is supposed to catch criminals, not stop people from criticising the President."

Lennon plunged into the anti-Vietnam War movement when he moved to New York in August 1971 and became friends with such activists as Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman. He even considered doing a concert tour to benefit the cause.

The FBI, under J. Edgar Hoover, began investigating Lennon that same year, having received a tip that he was going to contribute \$75,000 to a group planning to disrupt the 1972 Republican National Convention, at which President Nixon was renominated for a second term.

The agency kept up its surveillance while the US Immigration Service tried to deport Lennon over his having admitted cannabis possession in Britain in 1968.

Lennon never went to the convention and the FBI closed the case "in view of the subject's inactivity in revolutionary activities".

Senior UN official invented seminars in £375,000 fraud

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A SENIOR United Nations official has been convicted of cheating the organisation of \$600,000 (£375,000) in expenses for fictional guests at non-existent seminars.

Gustavo Soler Artecona, a Cuban-American who worked at the UN Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) in Geneva, was given an 18-month suspended sentence by a Swiss court for what one UN source described as "a beautiful scheme".

Although the UN is plagued by fraud, the case is unusual in that it ended in a successful prosecution by a local court and the recovery of about two thirds of the stolen money. Under the terms of the judgment, the balance will have to be made good.

Mr Soler Artecona worked for many years in the trade promotion section of Unctad, a bastion of Third World influence whose very existence has come into question since the creation of the new World Trade Organisation. He held the rank of P-5, the most senior professional-level post in the UN system, and qualified as a "certifying officer" for financial decisions.

According to UN sources, Mr Soler Artecona's responsibilities included organising

training seminars for trade representatives from developing countries. With lax supervision, he was able to stage dozens of fake seminars over five or six years.

He would draw up a list of fictional people he planned to invite, arrange their travel, accommodation and per-diem payments and then bill Unctad.

The fraud was discovered only when his supervisor retired and was replaced by a manager who realised he was submitting bogus documents.

A recently created UN watchdog launched an investigation and Mr Soler Artecona was sacked in December for "gross mismanagement".

Karl Paschke, the German who heads the UN's investigative arm, decided that the offence was so serious that it demanded criminal prosecution and the UN waived Mr Soler Artecona's diplomatic immunity so he could be brought to justice by Swiss authorities.

Herr Paschke's department continues to investigate numerous complaints of misconduct, including the disappearance of \$3.9 million (£2.4 million) from a filing cabinet during the UN peace-keeping operation in Somalia.

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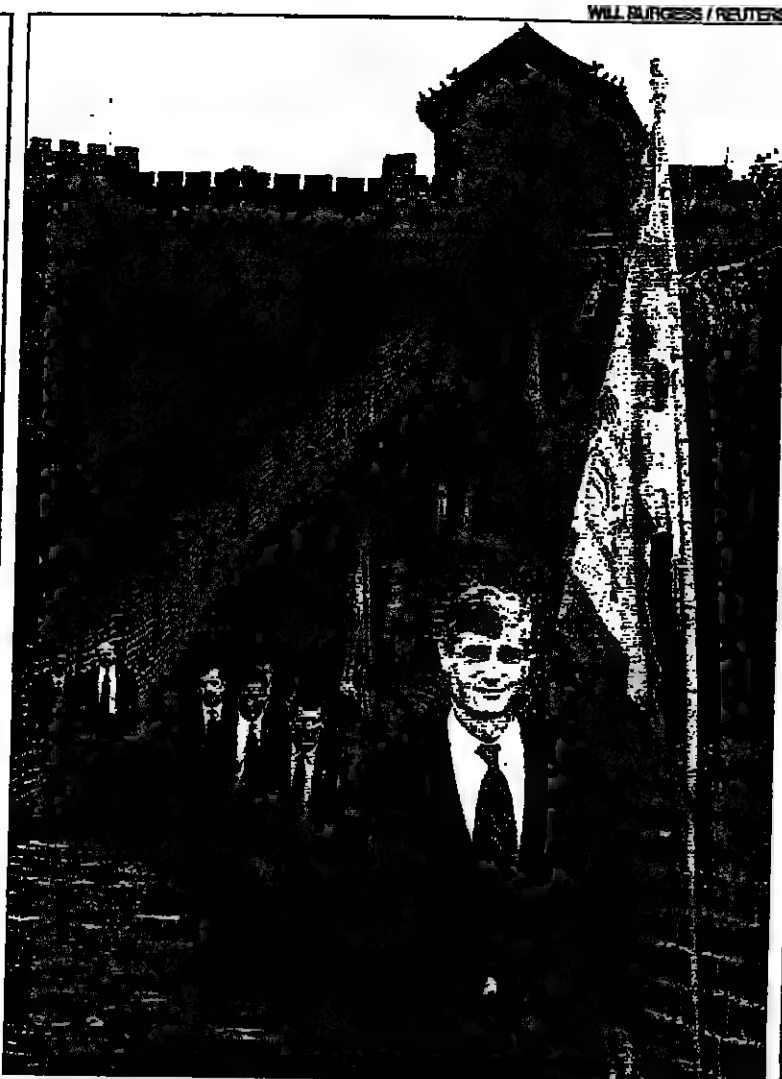
Nasa decides to send new Mir astronaut

Washington: In defiance of congressional opposition, and amid much controversy, Nasa last night decided to blast another American into orbit to replace Michael Foale, the British-born astronaut on board the beleaguered Mir space station (Tom Rhodes writes).

Atlantis, the US space shuttle, was scheduled to leave Cape Canaveral last night, carrying seven crew members. They include David Wolf, 41, who will be the sixth American astronaut to live on Mir, where he will spend four months.

It had taken until yesterday for Nasa officials to give the green light to the programme after last-minute safety reviews concluded that the ageing Russian station was indeed secure. Thomas Stafford, a former Apollo and Gemini astronaut in charge of the review, said: "The systems on board the Mir present no more risks than they have for the previous flights."

In a statement, David Goldin, the Nasa Administrator, said: "We move forward not only because it is safe, but for the important scientific and human experience we can gain only from Mir." His announcement came after weeks of speculation about whether the United States would decide to collect Mr Foale without sending a replacement after the numerous problems encountered by the station. In the past seven months Mir, which is already more than 11 years old, has suffered a fire, a collision that almost forced the crew to abandon ship, and repeated computer crashes.



Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, takes a break from an official visit to Beijing at the Great Wall of China yesterday

Kennedy blackmail papers 'were faked'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON



Kennedy: suspected of hush-money deal with Monroe

AN AMERICAN television network has revised a sizzling documentary about President Kennedy because papers thought to prove he had made a \$1 million deal with Marilyn Monroe to conceal their rumoured love affair were fakes.

ABC News had planned to release a series based on *The Dark Side of Camelot*, a Kennedy exposé by Seymour Hersh, the Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative writer, which is to be published soon.

Mr Hersh, who gained fame for uncovering the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, has been working for four years on the latest book with which he hoped to render the myriad other tomes of Kennedy scandal obsolete. Drawing on a cache of secret papers provided by the son of a long-dead New York lawyer, Mr Hersh was to offer the strongest evidence yet for rumours involving the seamy side of Camelot.

Among these were the an-

nulment of Kennedy's supposed first marriage, his links to Sam Giancana, the notorious mobster, and his agreement to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in hush money to Monroe, his Hollywood lover.

At the eleventh hour, however, Mr Hersh has concluded that many of the documents are fakes. He has tried to play down the controversy but ABC

News, which had hoped to sweep the November ratings with the documentary, has been left with a highly embarrassing dilemma.

Last night the network was featuring a report on the "bizarre story of the Kennedy documents", asserting that some, particularly those involving the former President and Monroe, were forgeries. Appearing on the film was

Lawrence Cusack, the original source of the documents, who was to argue their authenticity. "I thought we were on the same team," Mr Cusack, who claims his father was an informal Kennedy adviser, said yesterday.

He added that he had discovered about 300 pages of Kennedy papers in private files after his father's death in 1985 and had them authenticated by experts before agreeing, ten years later, to let Mr Hersh use them.

The notes included comments, apparently in Kennedy's hand, which were thought to refer to the deal. "No mention", seemingly a cryptic reference to himself, was written next to "No mention R", presumably Robert Kennedy, and "No mention SG", assumed to be Mr Giancana.

On a handwritten sheet was a list of the Kennedy siblings with the amounts they would pay towards the blackmail settlement.

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CHANGING TIMES

Karadzic arrest is imminent, Nato says

FROM TOM WALKER IN SARAJEVO

DIPLOMATS and military sources in Sarajevo are again warning Radovan Karadzic, the indicted war crimes suspect, that a military snatch operation to arrest him is imminent.

The international community insists that this time it means business. Bolstered by declarations from the six-nation Contact Group on Bosnia coming from New York, the language in Sarajevo has a new-found menace to it.

"The clock started ticking for indicted war criminals several weeks ago and their time is up," said Duncan Bullivant, spokesman for the Office of the High Representative, the body overseeing the civilian implementation of the Dayton peace accord. Mr Bullivant said the members of the Contact Group — America, Russia, Britain, France, Italy and Germany — were "building for the big one". Asked when exactly the clock

Vojislav Seselj, the radical nationalist whose party has made large gains in the Serbian elections, called for a coalition government comprising the country's four largest parties: his nationalists would join with Slobodan Milosevic's Socialists, the Communists of Mr Milosevic's wife, Myra, and the moderates of Vuk Draskovic.

started ticking, he reaffirmed that the SAS operation in June, in which one war crimes suspect was killed and another arrested, signalled the watershed between rhetoric and action.

There has been a marked increase in activity from Nato's Stabilisation Force (Sfor) in Bosnia in the past week, particularly around Pale and the route north towards the border with Serbia itself. Sfor officials have admitted stepping up patrols as a "preventative measure" against the Karadzic-inspired mob violence that is now a common feature throughout eastern Bosnia.

Despite pressure from the Contact Group, however, the Karadzic operation remains in the balance pending elections in Republika Srpska. Now scheduled for November 15, Western capitals are hoping that these will reaffirm the decline in support for Dr Karadzic and reinstall Biljana Plavsic as undisputed President in a poll to be held on December 7.

German parties seek to break tax deadlock

Frankfurt: The German Government met opposition leaders last night in a last-ditch attempt to break the deadlock over social tax reforms, which are regarded as crucial to encouraging investment and job creation (Deborah Colclough writes).

The parliamentary conciliation committee of the government-dominated lower house, the Bundestag, and the Opposi-

tion-dominated upper house, the Bundesrat, held talks in Bonn after the collapse of negotiations in July, which resulted in the two sides blaming each other for the failure to reach a compromise. It now looks unlikely that agreement will be reached soon, although yesterday's *Bild* said the coalition is offering a new way of imposing limited tax cuts next year.

WORLD SUMMARY

Millionaire is found murdered

A missing millionaire has been found stabbed to death on the banks of New York's Hudson River within sight of the floating restaurant he owned (James Bone writes).

Nelson Gross, 65, a former Republican politician, vanished a week ago after withdrawing \$20,000 (£12,400) from a bank. A former waiter and two friends have been arrested for the murder.

TWA jet theory

New York: Crash investigators suspect an electrical jolt caused by crossed wires might have brought down TWA Flight 800, killing all 230 on board, by igniting fumes in its empty central fuel tank.

Seen and heard

Sydney: Confession rooms and boxes in Australia are to have glass viewing panels as part of moves to counter child abuse scandals that have rocked the nation's Roman Catholic Church. (AFP)

Rao trial begins

Delhi: An Indian court began the trial of P. V. Narasimha Rao, the former Prime Minister, by bringing formal bribery charges against him and others in a vote-buying case, court officials said. (Reuters)

Separate bids

Blenheim: A vasectomy was the prize in this New Zealand town's charity auction last year. This year it is offering a divorce — but the offer must be taken up before the end of 1999. (Reuters)

Crash inquiry

Delhi: A Kazakhstan Ilushin 76, which collided head-on near here last year with a Saudi Boeing 747, has been blamed by an inquiry for the world's worst mid-air collision, in which 349 died. (AFP)

Little feat

Bucharest: Vanda Rotariu, a Romanian who, like her husband Costel, is a Bucharest circus dwarf, has given birth to a standard-sized baby boy, already almost half as tall as his 3ft 3in mother. (AFP)

Vietnam's choice

Hanoi: The Vietnamese National Assembly appointed Phan Van Khai, 63, a popular southern reformer who stood unopposed, as Prime Minister, completing a leadership reshuffle. (Reuters)



Phan Van Khai, 63, a popular southern reformer who stood unopposed, as Prime Minister, completing a leadership reshuffle.

London Fashion Week

THE TIMES
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**FROM A SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT
IN JAKART**

In the centre of Kuala Lumpur, firefighters perched on 150ft cranes sprayed water on the elegant Moorish-style High Court building to cut through the blanket of hazy pollution. The building is oc-



A photograph taken by the Royal Australian Air Force on a relief mission shows smoke from fires in Indonesia blanketing the eastern highlands of Papua New Guinea, which is already gripped by drought.

square miles of peat under the burning forests had caught fire. "If all the peat catches fire, then the haze could last for months and months," she said. "It is very difficult to put peat fires out." She blamed the Indonesian Government for

While the Government has

In Indonesia's easternmost province on Irian Jaya, which is the grip of a drought, the death toll from hunger has risen to 265 from 251. Missionaries said many of the deaths could have been avoided if

In the Philippines, a health alert has been declared in parts of the country and the haze has also enveloped Manila.

A satellite image of haze covering much of South-East Asia. Environmentalists accuse Indonesia of anathy in dealing with the companies blamed for the chaos

6 It is an international catastrophe. The question is how to put the fires out. The answer is we do not know.

There are presently 8,500 Indonesians and more than 1,000 Malaysians fighting the

Antara, the official Indonesian news agency, reported that forest fires in Irian Jaya

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THIS SUNDAY

Israel sanctions 300 new homes in West Bank

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

EXTREME Palestinian leaders yesterday issued threats of more suicide attacks after Israel defied the United States by sanctioning 300 more homes for Jews in the occupied West Bank.

Diplomatic observers said that Benjamin Netanyahu's pledge of new building in the Efrat settlement, near Bethlehem, brought relations between the right-wing Government and the Clinton Administration to their lowest ebb since the Prime Minister's election in May 1996.

He told hundreds of religious teenagers that "we are building in Judaea and Samaria", using the biblical name for the West Bank favoured by Israeli hawk.

Last night Martin Indyk, the outgoing American Ambassador to Israel, himself a Jew, said angrily that the Israeli settlement move undermined American efforts at the United Nations.

"We are unhappy with that announcement," he said on Israel television. "The Secretary of State [Madeleine Albright] is up at the UN at the moment and she is engaged in an almost full-time effort to help Israel, because there is an

effort under way to isolate Israel, and it is in that context that this announcement comes and it undermines her efforts." The widely respected envoy had, only hours earlier, issued a warning in an unusually pessimistic farewell address in Tel Aviv that the Oslo peace process, which began four years ago, "some days seems to be turning into a nightmare".

American feathers were further ruffled because hours before unveiling the initiative, Mr Netanyahu had spoken by telephone to Ms Albright, who on her recent trip to the Middle East had requested that the Prime Minister take a "time out" in settlement building. During the conversation, Mr Netanyahu had not once mentioned his plans for Efrat.

Ms Albright last night reprimanded Israel, claiming in a reaction that was broadcast by the State Department spokesman, James Rubin, that she did not "regard this kind of building as consistent with the kind of climate for negotiation that she hoped to create".

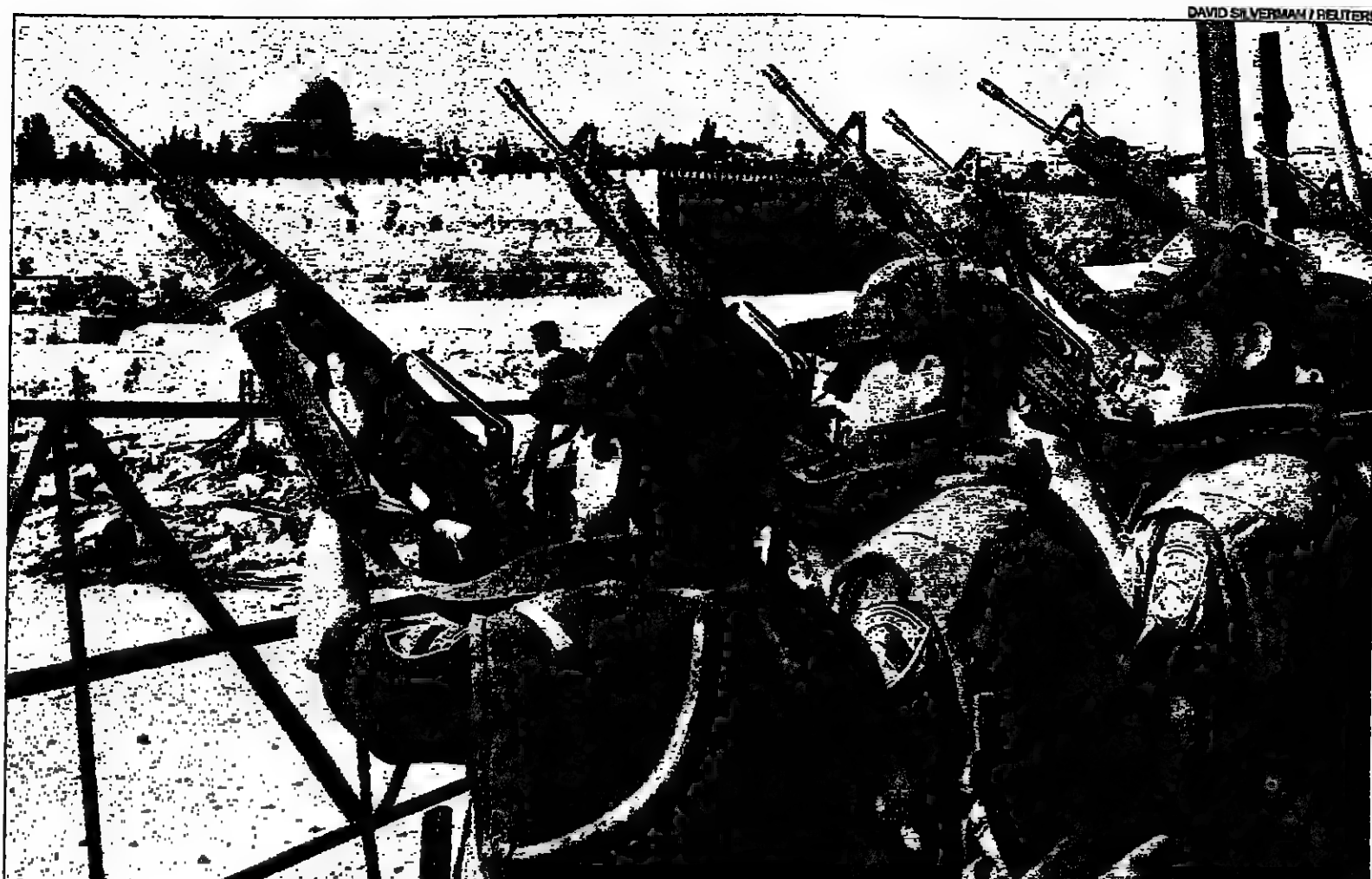
The Israeli Government was undeterred. Danny Naveh, the Cabinet Secretary, dismissed the uproar as "a

storm in a teacup" and argued that the settlement was virtually a suburb of Jerusalem. He claimed that the building plans there had initially been approved by Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Labour Prime Minister.

Ahmed Tibi, a senior adviser to Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, said that the expansion programme had planned "a landmine" under efforts to revive the stalled Israeli-Palestinian dialogue due to be made in New York next week at a three-way meeting between Abu Mazen, the Palestinian No. 2, David Levy, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and Ms Albright, who suggested it.

Yossi Sarid, the leader of the left-wing Meretz opposition party, responded angrily: "Every time that the prospects for resuming negotiations improve, Prime Minister Netanyahu does something to undermine them. Building in Efrat is unnecessary for anyone except a small segment of the [ruling Likud] coalition."

Right-wing supporters of Mr Netanyahu hit back at Ms Albright, who has upset them by calling for a halt to the "unilateral measures" being



Israeli border police on guard duty yesterday outside an Arab east Jerusalem settlement, where Jews occupied an Arab house last week

taken by Israel as a vital condition for restarting talks with the Palestinians, which have been halted since March. Hanan Porat, a leading member of the National Religious Party, a key member of the coalition, accused the Secretary of State of "anachronistic" behaviour by trying to replace

the British, whose rule in the Mandate period ended with the creation of the Jewish state in 1948. Palestinian exasperation was voiced across the political spectrum. Abdel Aziz Rantisi, the Hamas leader, accused Israel of deliberately provoking the Palestinians. "Israel should not expect us to

dance to the tune of peace while they are bulldozing confiscated land and building settlements and strengthening the Zionist presence in Palestine," Mr Rantisi, one of 400 militants expelled to Lebanon by the former Labour Government in 1992, was asked on Israeli television how many

young Palestinians were willing to blow themselves up in Israeli cities. "Thousands, thousands," he replied. "And if I say tens of thousands, I am saying the truth." A poll of 1,320 Palestinians published yesterday showed that the number backing suicide attacks against Jews had risen

from 21 per cent in February to 36 per cent now. Last night Faisal Hussein, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's top official in Jerusalem, said that the Israeli move, announced when the country was already on full alert for more bombings, would spark violence.

Fiji back in fold after vote by India

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FIJI has been readmitted to the Commonwealth ten years after a racially motivated military coup led to its membership lapsing. The Pacific island group will reclaim its membership on October 1, and will take its place at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Edinburgh next month.

The decision was announced, prematurely, by Sivveni Rabuka, the Prime Minister, who led the military coup but then oversaw the return to a constitution that did not discriminate against Fiji's ethnic Indian majority — since much reduced through emigration. Britain has pressed hard for Fiji's return, together with New Zealand, Australia, the Pacific island countries and Malaysia.

Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, wrote to all 53 members and asked whether there were any objections to Fiji's application for readmission.

The key vote was India's, but following the acceptance of the new Fijian constitution by J. Ramesh Reddy, leader of Fiji's opposition Labour Party. Under Kumar Gajraj, the Indian Prime Minister, stated publicly that he supported the country's readmission.

Fiji, now a republic, maintains the Union Flag as part of its national emblem and there is strong support for the monarchy. It is the only country to celebrate officially the birthday of the Prince of Wales. He is understood to have lobbied strongly for the island's readmission.

Women beggars pay the price of Taleban dogma

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

A SMALL foreign bank that gave tiny loans to Afghan women for the purchase of a sewing machine, a goat or to finance some other modest means of livelihood has been thrown out of Afghanistan by the Taleban Islamic militia for promoting "shamelessness" among females.

It is a reminder, a year after the Islamic militia seized Kabul, of the almost medieval society being imposed across much of the country. Thousands of war widows who queue every morning in the capital for beans and oil from foreign charity organisations are testimony to Taleban's savage treatment of women.

The Grameen Bank of Bangladesh has changed the lives of thousands in its own country by giving loans of a few pounds, enabling women to become financially self-sufficient by selling milk, clothes and blankets, growing produce for sale or opening tiny village shops. The bank survived opposition from fundamentalist clerics at home, but its modest incursion into Afghanistan brought it face-to-face with the world's most conservative Islamic regime.

"The motive of the bank was to lead Muslims away from Islam," Taleban said, accusing it of being a front organisation of Christian missionaries, an allegation received with derision in Bangladesh, where the bank is hugely popular among poor women and generally regarded as one of the country's most respected institutions. Few who take a loan ever default.

On September 27 last year Kabul fell quietly to Taleban after the city's previous masters slipped away to the north, leaving the capital to the mercy of an intolerant regime that believes in limb amputations, public hangings and floggings, and severe restrictions on women, who are not

allowed to work outside the home. International condemnation has done nothing to soften its actions.

The plight of women is nowhere greater than in Kabul, which has 11,000 war widows. Welfare food centres normally operate only in the winter but this year they stayed open in the summer to prevent starvation. The war widows, who have an average of four children, mostly spend their days begging or working for food.

Streets are filled with beggar women, victims of an ideology instilled in young men at *madrasas* (Islamic schools) in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The students are mostly illiterate, like the mullahs who teach them rabid interpretations of Muslim ideology.

The militia has earned the loathing of the moderate Muslim world and the fear of India and Central Asia. It has humiliated Pakistan, doubtless a paymaster and certainly a close friend, by failing to conquer all Afghanistan. Had it done so, Pakistan would have had a rare taste of foreign policy victory.

Instead, Islamabad has made powerful enemies who are backed by Russia, Iran and, probably, India. The region is now one of the world's most volatile, with an abundance of weapons and a web of rival international interests. The main battlefield has moved from Kabul to the north, where Taleban is fighting to capture the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, headquarters of its main opponents.

Kabul: Taleban authorities have ordered all ten private hospitals here to close within five days as part of a plan to return the health sector to its pre-Communist form. Mullah Mohammad Abbas Akhund, Taleban's Minister of Public Health, said. (Reuters)

Japanese see Genghis as ideal boss

Tokyo: For many young bureaucrats in Japan, it is not Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, who is the ideal boss, but Genghis Khan. The Government asked 520 newly hired national civil servants whom they would most admire as a boss: 79 listed Genghis Khan, the 13th-century Mongol warrior who conquered swathes of Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

The National Personnel Authority, said yesterday that many new bureaucrats regard Genghis Khan as "a man of organisation who achieved a united Mongolia".

Finishing second with 52 votes was Akira Ohgi, manager of the Orix BlueWave, a Pacific League baseball team. He was followed by Kyoza Nagatsuka, an actor. (AP)

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The day Caroline Beale was arrested, her parents had been counting their blessings. They talked to *Grace Bradberry*

**'Her body
hid it,
her body
and mind
hid that
baby'**

Peter Beale, whose expression is inscrutable as he watches his wife's distress, speaks in more measured

The Beales, and Caroline in New York and as a child. Experts said that she was suffering from depression with psychotic features at the time of the birth.

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Jodie Foster in *Contact*, a film which was the last professional collaboration between Ann Druyan and her late husband, the scientist Carl Sagan

Message for outer space

Ann Druyan, creative director of Nasa's *Voyager* project, is waiting for an alien response. Interview by Bill Frost

Beyond the orbit of Neptune, and making for the open sea of interstellar space, Mozart, Beethoven and Chuck Berry are waiting to make contact with alien life forms. Travelling with them for the next billion years on specially cut golden video discs is the sound of a young woman very much in love — the pounding of her heart and the rasp of her breath.

Ann Druyan recorded it just days after she met Carl Sagan, television astronomer, novelist, peace campaigner and the man she was to marry. As creative director of Nasa's *Voyager* interstellar record project, she chose the beat of her own grand passion as one of the defining soundbites of life on Earth — a piece in the jigsaw that might one day be put together in a distant galaxy.

A polymath like her late husband, Ms Druyan designed the complex message of music, images and ideas to be placed aboard the *Voyager* spacecraft. Although she consulted others, the finished product was hers alone.

The video discs carry playing instructions in scientific hieroglyphics. They resemble the simple, diagrammatic operating instructions of a per-

sonal stereo. There are pictures interspersed with music: a newborn baby; a young couple in love; an old couple still in love; images of war, images of fertility — the best and worst of our world.

There was no nepotism involved in her selection as creative director of the project. "Ann made it on merit alone not because she was Carl's wife — she is one smart lady," said a Nasa insider.

Ten years ago, she was elected secretary of the Federation of American Scientists — the cream of the profession dedicated to the prevention of military misuse of high technology, the self-styled "conscience of the nation". Ms Druyan says her husband changed the fundamentalist view that there could be no other intellectual life but mankind in a Universe created by God. Reports of close encounters are a continuing source of disappointment.

That was a sadness for Carl too. OK, the contacts are not verifiable but we've only been at it for five minutes — one generation — really. I don't believe that the Govern-



Space search: Ann Druyan

ment or the military authorities are suppressing the truth either here or elsewhere. One day, though, that message will come true.

Sagan believed that, too. Before his death last December, aged 62, he had served as the professor of astronomy and space sciences and director of laboratory for planetary studies at Cornell University and played a leading role in the American space programme.

At present, *Voyager 1* and *Voyager 2* are well beyond the

outermost planets of the solar system and Ms Druyan is still waiting for a response from the "life forms out there which statistically must exist". Next to the devastating physical loss of her husband last Christmas, her greatest sadness is that he did not live to make contact with another world.

"The time capsules show our world in all its beauty and with all its paradoxes. The discs carry voices in 59 different languages, 118 video images of life on Earth and 24 samples of music.

"Among them are three pieces of Bach, two by Beethoven, Mozart, a Delta blues, some Louis Armstrong and Chuck Berry's *Johnny B. Goode*. No alien life form can fail to be moved by that guitar solo or the rest of the selection — it moves me, it will move them."

Her fragile composure breaks when she talks of Sagan. "After 20 years together and two children, I miss him with all my heart. There is not a moment goes by that he is not in my thoughts. "I don't believe in an after-life. It is narcissism, a spiritual Valium. I would love to believe I could be reunited with Carl but it is never going to happen. If only I could cut the corners of my own knowledge and scepticism, forget my rational reservations, know I would be holding him in my arms again in heaven." The couple's final project together — *Contact*, a Hollywood epic featuring

'It is impossible to believe that life only exists here'

Jodie Foster as a cosmologist blasted into infinity in the search for alien life forms — is Sagan's final epitaph and his wife's last memory of their professional collaboration.

The film catalogues not just the search for life beyond Earth but the search for unconditional love too. Ms Druyan says Foster's character has all her late husband's "emotional nakedness" and desire to strike a balance between science and religion. But the film tells a different story — a young woman's search to find support from a father figure taken from her prematurely by death.

Druyan and Sagan are mirror images of the characters played in the film by Foster and the alien who chooses to take the form of her late father when they meet in deep space. "Carl's dream, my dream, was to write something that would be a fictional representation of what contact would actually be like — that would convey something of the true grandeur of the Universe. We also wanted to include the tension inherent between religion and science, which was an area of philosophical and

intellectual interest that riveted us both. We are not at the centre of the Universe, the galaxy, or even our own solar system. It is impossible to believe that life only exists here; impossible to believe that love only exists here ... and Carl believed that too.

"And yet there has never been a shred of evidence, never a close encounter, and that includes the much publicised 1947 Roswell incident. Maybe they look down at us, they did not want to be corrupted by our need, our greed and our violence.

"I want to believe there is life beyond our own little planet just like I want to believe that Carl and I could be reunited somewhere when I die."

● *Contact* opens in cinemas nationwide today

Why it's wrong for working mothers to feel guilty

Mary Ann Sieghart on how it is possible to balance a successful career with family life

If I hadn't been asked to write this feature at short notice yesterday, I would have had time to race across town at lunchtime to talk to Evie's teacher as planned. If I hadn't been asked the day before to deliver 2,000 words on Cherie Booth by this morning, I would have been able to say goodnight to my girls last night. As it is, today's naggingly score is work 2, family 0. So is it worth it? Or do I secretly envy Brenda Barnes, the PepsiCo president who announced on Wednesday that she was giving up work to spend more time with her children?

The answer is a steadfast "yes" to the first question and "no" to the second. Like most working mothers, I question my life regularly. And when I read reports such as yesterday's, I do a little mental check to make sure that I still believe I am doing the right thing. But I always come up with the same conclusion: I couldn't not work.

My resolve is bolstered by the knowledge that the people who know and love me best — my husband, my mother, my brother — all agree. They would be horrified if I decided to jack it all in for full-time motherhood. But what, you might ask, about the most important people concerned, the children?

They are, of course, ambivalent. They are proud of what I achieve: they love seeing my name in the paper, watching me on TV or hearing my voice on the radio. I believe that it is important for mothers to be good role models to daughters. In my case, it seems to have worked rather well: Evie, six, has already designed herself a portfolio career, which begins with actor and theatre director, develops into inventor, and culminates with Prime Minister. Rosa, four, says she will settle for being just Prime Minister and a mummy. These ambitions were arrived at quite independently.

The girls do also say that they would like to see more of me. Usually they fare better than they did yesterday. I always see them in the mornings, and spend half an hour with Evie on the way to school. I often see them in the evenings too, and almost always at weekends. I am also lucky in that, unlike Mrs Barnes and many other high-achieving women, I rarely have to travel for my work.

But the critical difference for the girls, compared with the childhood I remember, is that they see so much more of their father. Dai is self-employed and has arranged matters so that his office is next to our home. He is a devoted and active father, and pops in and out of the house. The girls are secure in the feeling that one parent is around

during the day, if not actually looking after them. In terms of total parental attention, their tally is roughly the same as mine was as a child.

So, to the question: "Can women have it all?" I would answer "yes", with reservations. Having a great nanny (which, luckily, we do) is one prerequisite. Having a great husband is another. Most happy working women have husbands with flexible lives. The trouble comes when both parents are career-maximisers in demanding jobs. Then, I think, the children do take the strain.

But why should it always be the mother whose career is downgraded? Some mothers will want nothing more than to give up work. Others will do so only because their husbands are not prepared to compromise. They are likely to end up bored, frustrated and depressed, not the best formula for good motherhood. Children will not be made happy by having a mother who resents domesticity and channels all her ambition into their achievements.

For women who have always known, as I have, that they wanted fulfilment from a career, the best strategy is to marry a man who is not a workaholic and who wants to be an active father. My husband is a paragon in that respect: when I was considering marriage, it was one of the many attractive features about him.

But I also admire people of both sexes who, having reached the top, decide to spend more time with their family. Brenda Barnes has achieved the pinnacle of corporate life. If she has earned enough to retire early, good for her. My only worry is whether it will actually make her happier. My guess is that she will experience six months of elation and liberation before the guilty feelings return. Instead of worrying about not seeing enough of her children, she will wonder what she is doing with her life.

The best antidote to guilt in mothers is to realise that almost all other mothers feel qualms, whether they are working full-time, part-time or not at all. If they give up work, they worry that they are wasting their potential and becoming boring. If they go out to work, they fear that they are neglecting their children.

The truth is that some people are made to work, some are not. Women who want to work should do so, and ideally marry men who are less driven than they. Women who don't want to work should, if they can afford it, stay at home. Above all, they should stop worrying. For the ultimate test is the state of mind of the children. As long as they remain happy and well-adjusted, we must be doing something right.

'Mothers should be good role models for daughters'

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Unlauded but still a genius

The hated Mr Mandelson is his party's saviour, says John Lloyd

When, next week, Labour's conference lauds Tony Blair, will it have the sense and generosity to pay tribute to the other architect of its ascent to power? To Peter Mandelson?

Since he joined the party in 1985 as director of communications, he has worked steadily to achieve Labour's rehabilitation as a governing force by remoulding its image, its ideology and its policies. He is famed and reviled, by the journalists who have fed off him (or been starved by him) and the politicians whose reputations have been shredded or bruised by him, as a spinner, a manipulator, an image creator. But his ideology, and his desire to shape policy, are at least as important and becoming more so. All his main innovations have mixed image, ideology and policy; it is what gives them their strength.

Among the most important of these innovations has been the disengagement of party from policy. Mr Mandelson came into full-time party work when the party conference and its National Executive Committee were the cockpit of ceaseless struggle over policy positions. The outcome was frequently humiliating to the party leader — Michael Foot, then Neil Kinnock. More than anyone, Mandelson has worked to loosen the grip of the executive, the trade unions and now the parliamentarians on the presentation of policy. He has not completed the task: but the terrain has altered beyond recognition. The executive is neutered or loyal, the unions resentful but sidelined, the parliamentarians respectful or futile in their resentments.

The displacement of party was only possible with the right leader. Neil Kinnock, whom Mr Mandelson served with great devotion, was nevertheless consistently less party than his party; John Smith he could not serve because Mr Smith disliked him. As Mr Mandelson sees it, the ideological and political transformations in the party had gone as far as they could with the old leadership; they required fusing with a man who could epitomise the spirit of the age, and that man was Tony Blair.

Mr Mandelson's attachment to Mr Blair, which is complete, is thus a complex thing: in part the devotion of a close aide and adviser, in part the joy of an impresario at having found a star for his long-prepared show. Between these two postures there is the discourse of two men who are coevals and who are closer on policy than any other two politicians at the top of government. Neither troubles about embracing ideas from any part of the spectrum. Both — although natural social liberals — have a strong authoritarian, even vengeful, streak and both enjoy the company of men and women of power.

The right leader must himself have great power. The party reforms were designed to give it to him. The strength-

ening of the political and policy units in Downing Street and the boosting of position of the Cabinet Office — where Mr Mandelson is nominally number two to the low-key David Clark — is aimed at giving the Prime Minister the executive authority and strategic grasp that Mr Mandelson thinks he should have. He outlined the plan in the book he wrote in 1995 with Roger Liddle, the former Social Democrat politician; they said that "a more provocative approach will be particularly important if a Blair-led government wants to create areas of cross-departmental administration which are not covered by existing Whitehall structures". Peter Mandelson covers all Whitehall structures. His waiting room is as likely to contain the Chief of General Staff as a journalist these days.

This past week, he has signalled the apotheosis of the politics he has done so much to create. His lectures to both William Hague and Paddy Ashdown signify a genuine belief, which he shares with Mr Blair, that new Labour commands a hegemonic space in British — possibly even European — politics, so that the only choice opposition parties have is to emulate its style.

He is passionate about uniting the riven Left

But not just its style. Mr Mandelson's complaint against Mr Ashdown was not about his style, but about his substance and his candour. He and Mr Blair appear to have been genuinely outraged by Paddy Ashdown's attack on their record so far. They have spent hours in meetings, social occasions and on the phone with the Liberal leader. In these sessions, Mr Ashdown has said he sees the problems of implementation, has recognised the difficulties of government and has complained to them about the lack of realism on the part of his colleagues.

His charge of "deliberate betrayal" was thus not seen as merely the need of a leader to reassure the rank and file with theatricals, but as the sign of a man who had not yet grown up. Mr Mandelson and Mr Blair are passionate about the project of sewing together a Left riven since the Social Democratic split 16 years ago. The stinging rebuke to Mr Ashdown gave him notice that a new politics of realignment had to be accompanied by a new politics of candour and courage in taking on his own unreconstructed anti-Labourites.

The lordliness of the reproach to the Liberals, the contempt for the Conservatives, are the kind of hauteur which now attracts the ritual disdain of journalists. Mr Mandelson is an exonerated figure: his position envied, his style mocked, his private life the butt of constant innuendo. But more discerning delegates in Brighton next week may reflect on his record, and spare a private ovation for him. He has, for good and ill, put them where they are today.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.



BREAKTHROUGH

26 ix 97
Peter Brooke

Sleeping with the enemy

Will Blair and Ashdown end Britain's time-honoured adversarial politics?

I first encountered the "new politics" in 1956. My nana, Mrs Alice Litter, was visiting us in Cyprus. With my parents she was discussing reports from Westminster in the overseas edition of a British newspaper. It seemed that politicians of different parties were involved in an ill-tempered row. I forget what it was about, but remember nana observing to my mother (her daughter) that it would be a good idea if MPs "stopped behaving like children and put the good of the country first".

Nothing that Paddy Ashdown has said about the new politics this week in Eastbourne, and nothing Tony Blair has said about his vision of a more constructive politics for Britain, adds much to nana's formulation. Shall we try to define terms? The "new politics" has been a phrase on many lips at the Liberal Democrat conference in Eastbourne this week. Paddy Ashdown has called it the "detribalisation" of Westminster, and Tony Blair has used the same term. The idea is that MPs should waste less time and energy playing as opposing teams, and instead pool their energies and unite their talents behind what nana called the good of the country.

Why now, in particular? Well, the immediate call is for Liberal Democrats to drop what Peter Mandelson calls their "oppositionalism" and fall in step with the Government's onward march to a better Britain. In return, Mr Ashdown believes that Mr Mandelson's party should and might open its mind to Liberal Democrat ideas about constitutional and voting reform. Both sides talk about seeking other areas, too, where sensible men and women could co-operate across parties, instead of trying to trip each other up.

Beyond that, we know little more. Speechmakers seem vague about how the House of Commons would actually operate if "detribalisation" seriously caught on.

If we try to guess, we can imagine two alternative destinations to the journey. One is that our democracy could offer what Athens is wrongly fabled to have enjoyed: an assembly of reasonable citizens, elected with no affiliations except to the truth and the common good. Let us call that the Athenian interpretation of the "new politics". It is the logical conclusion of the Blair/Ashdown rhetoric. Logical but unrealistic.

There is a more limited interpreta-

tion, closer to practical politics. It is this, I think, that most commentators really have in mind. Existing party frontiers between "mainstream" politicians, they think, could soften — even dissolve. Most Liberal Democrats could join forces with that majority of the Labour Party which Mr Blair has named: maybe some "sensible" left-leaning Tories might join too. The result would be a new political grouping of the Centre. The Labour Left and Tory Right would be banished to the fringes.

Strictly speaking this is not the "new politics" because it is not the end of party but a realignment of parties. The extremes of Left and Right would simply become the new enemy, for neither Mr Blair nor Mr Ashdown is suggesting that any centre grouping should extend an inclusive arm to Dr Julian Lewis or to Tony Benn. On the contrary, an advantage of a centrist realignment is supposed to be that it could permanently exclude the extremes from political influence. Realignment share with my late nana an unarticulated suspicion that extremists (people with views sharply different from theirs) are ill-intentioned or mad.

At the heart of the "new politics" lies a proposition to which adherents may not knowingly subscribe, but which characterises their thought-processes. They believe that if reasonable men and women would only sit down together in a spirit of amity, in possession of the available facts, and with a shared interest in the good of their country, their opinions would converge. Whenever another's opinion diverges sharply and stubbornly from his own, your apostle of the "new politics" will tend to ascribe this to ignorance, malice or insanity. Tony Blair is an excellent exemplar. So, incidentally, was Julius Caesar.

I have just been reading Thornton Wilder's *The Ides of March* and the picture the novelist paints of a powerful intellect and progressive spirit, simply baffled by opposition and genuinely incapable of distinguishing his own ambition from his

ambitions for Rome, offers a chilling reminder of the strange innocence of strong men. I have seen the knitting of Mr Blair's brow when he is crossed and I know that his critics are wrong: it is not pride, it is consternation. When, exasperated, Mr Blair questions the sanity of Labour's left-leaning Euro-MPs, his remarks betray not aggression but genuine incomprehension. When his answer is that there is — surely? — "no going back to the past", the intention is not to bully. Mr Blair just doesn't see how, in 1997, there can be another point of view.

To such a spirit, persistent disagreement between good minds is a sort of contradiction in terms: a denial of the verities. Such a spirit feels threatened by contradiction, not really out of wilfulness but because it undermines his universe: if the world were arranged properly, there would be no serious argument. Although this tendency is characteristically feminine (to find virtue in conflict is a boy's game), it is compelling, and present in some measure in all of us. But it runs counter to the whole spirit of English (not Celtic) democracy, whose mainspring is conflict and whose result is bloody competition.

The "new politics" thinks you offer your citizenry a government as Sainsbury's offers its customers a supermarket: the desired product being more or less agreed, the challenge is to hire the best management team the headhunters can find. That in politics the product is not agreed, and that our constitution is designed to provoke furious competition between contrasting goods and their providers, dismays them. That every great advance in the world of political ideas has sprung from conflict and been born in anger, passes them by. The English have never really understood the theory of our legislature, and if they did they would disapprove — just as so many are secretly baffled by our judicial system, which requires counsel to make a vigorous case for something counsel may not believe.

Misunderstanding what drives the engine of English democracy, the apostles of the "new politics" see parliamentary conflict as an unpleasant by-product, grit in the machine, to be filtered out or smoothed away by the lubricant of goodwill and better communication. But conflict — team, party, faction, tribe, the adversarial spirit, call it what you will — is not grit in the parliamentary cogs: it drives the wheels. Conflict is the fuel of our democracy.

It is inherent for two good reasons. First, it is the fire in which new ideas are forged. Tony Blair has never had a new idea in his life. Secondly, it provides the drama with which politics engages the populace. On the Continent, where the political process so admired by the "new politics" is far less adversarial, only crisis can engage the populace. For this reason the continental democracies, apparently less cantankerous than our own, are inherently less stable and far less deeply rooted.

It is not impossible that the "new politics" could take its way. The limited realignment of which Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown dream is achievable and I think both mean to achieve it, although it would be a struggle. The problems Mr Ashdown encountered this week with his party are only a curtain-raiser to those Mr Blair will encounter with his troops when he tells them (as he must if he is to keep faith with Mr Ashdown) that they must exchange the voting system by which they were elected for one in which fewer of them are likely to be elected.

But if we get PR, then we get government by coalition — and in their hearts, the prophets of the "new politics" know that and welcome it. They are on to a popular cause. I have not made a thousand speeches in a thousand village halls in England to remain unaware that my countrymen desire an end to adversarial politics at Westminster. Betty Boothroyd will tell you so. Jack Weatherill will tell you so. George Thomas could have told you so. Nana knew it. The advantage is so easily canvassed and so tangible, the loss so subtle and so hard to explain.

On balance I think it will not happen. The barbarians have a habit of winning, and I suspect that tribe will destroy Antonius Caesar before Antonius Caesar destroys tribe. I hope so.

Matthew Parris

Philip Howard



For the sake of argument, let's thrash this out

Birds: Why is it taken for granted by Sophists that it is more brutal to flog women than men? Discuss.

Socrates: I am ignorant about this. Perhaps because women do not enjoy being flogged, unlike the pupils of your public schools for boys. The romping though content-free verses of your poet Swinburne squirm to his predilection for flagellation. The tattered remnants of grand old men left in the Tory party formed their characters, fundamentally, through the seats of their striped trousers at Eton.

Birds: I suppose that timesome remark is what is meant by Socratic irony, pretending to be ignorant, followed by Socratic sarcasm, pretending to be funny. But the leaflets left by Disciplinary Dido and other young women pictured in black stockings and abbreviated school uniforms in London phone boxes suggest that some of the female sex claim to find pleasure, or at any rate money, in spanking. But how was it in your society? Your fellow citizen, Menander, said that a man who had not been flogged had not been educated. But did you also flog your women?

Socrates: Don't be disgusting! Which is how I translate *Euphemia*. Just as Homer's heroes in their new translation by Stanley Lombardo speak like American GIs in Nam, and badmouth each other as "trash" and "pansy". Achilles threatens his comrades when he decides to withdraw from the fighting at the beginning of the story. "You keep your goddam hands off, you hear?" Respectable Athenian women were the property of their men, and kept in purdah. But my dear wife Xanthippe certainly whipped her girl slaves — and me too, on occasions, which was why I preferred to spend most of my time out at dialogues with young men. But surely your society is built on flogging?

Birds: Don't be disgusting, yourself! That belongs to a medieval and barbaric age. Socrates: But did you not cane children in schools quite recently, until you desisted for fear of the European Court? You should treat children better than adults, not worse. Did not Churchill, your Pericles, declare that the traditions of your Royal Navy were nothing but rum, bum, sodomy and the lash? Much the same as the imperial Athenian navy, except that our triremes had to row on retsina instead of rum. Was not the Battle of Waterloo, your Marathon, won on the playing-fields of Eton? And the Iron Duke did not mean cricket or the field game, which were still inchoate. He was referring to bloody fist-fights behind the fives courts, and subsequent mass floggings, which indoctrinated your young Flashmen in the stiff upper lip and the tightly clenched cheeks. They were more frightened of their superior officers than they were of Bonaparte. Flogging also taught them the precaution of sticking blotting paper inside their pants.

Birds: Great flogging days that made the British Empire before our compassionate and caring Enlightenment! And Dr Johnson, our equivalent of you as a sage with the common touch, said: "There is now less flogging in our great schools than formerly — but then less is learned there; so that what the boys get at one end they lose at the other." But we never flogged the fair sex, alas. Socrates: Don't you believe it. Read *The Fatal Shore*, the account of your convict settlements in Australia, flogging to bits for both sexes. Whom do you think whipping posts were erected for? What did Dickensian beatings most enjoy? Your Puritans quite mistook what to do with tarts. In spite of valiant efforts by my young friend Plato and your historian, Fernández-Armesto, to discover Ideal Truth, I suspect there is no such figure. But it seems to me true that females are psychologically and morally stronger than men, and live longer. However, many of them are physically weaker and smaller than men. They bear children and are not so conditioned to violence and pain on the playgrounds of life. But sauce for the goose ought to be sauce for the gander, though it does not seem to work in the American Army or the British police. Flogging ought to be for both sexes. But psychically and sexually it has seemed wrong since Ancient Athens.

Birds: This is quite illogical. But if we get Nicola Horlick to do the flogging, she should be made to hold a family Bible under both armpits for pity on the weaker male sex.

Must sell

AS a contribution towards his £1.5 million legal bill, Jonathan Aitken has decided to sell his elegant Georgian townhouse in Westminster. The disgraced former Defence Minister is to put the house, in Lord North Street, on the market for about £1 million.

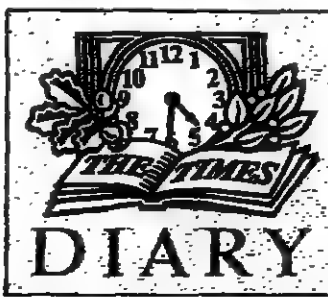
It had been thought that he would only sell his country home near Sandwich, Kent, which would

have helped to finance a possible divorce settlement with his estranged wife, Lolita.

It was felt that he would be loath to sell his London pad, in a coveted gas-lit street just around the corner from the House of Commons. Properties there have long been centres for plotting and intrigue, and none more so than No 8, where Mr Aitken has lived since 1959. He took the ten-bedroom house — formerly the home of Churchill's Minister of Information, Brendan Bracken — on a 42-year lease, buying the freehold in 1981 for £225,000. Now salivating local estate agents value it at more than £1 million.

The size — it is two houses knocked into one, and comfortably seats 16 for dinner — lent itself to conspiratorial gatherings of the Tory Right, lubricated by Aitken's famous hospitality. Many of his business deals took place over a late-night glass of wine in the drawing room.

But as he enters a subdued political era, having lost his seat at the election and a massive libel action about his sojourn at the Paris Ritz, it is a case of toodle-pip to Westminster.



HE SEEMS perfectly harmless, but the burghers of Eastbourne are not so sure. Simon Hughes, MP, pulled up in front of his hotel in his trademark London cab when a woman hailed him. "She was rather aggressive and tried to get in," says Hughes. "When I explained who I was, she stormed off. It was only 8am — she was obviously up to no good." Hmm. But what exactly do you get up to at that hour, Mr Hughes?

Evicted

SQUATTING is not an activity of ten practised by ambassadors, so pity Philip Lader, America's new man in London. He has been turfed out of his official residence just a week after arriving. Palatial Winfield House, Regent's Park, home to America's ambassadors

since 1936, has closed for essential repairs. The MoT, which will include plumbing, asbestos insulation and installing new phone lines, will take a year.

Meanwhile the Lader family is grateful for whatever digs it can find. "These are tough times for Mr and Mrs Lader and their two young daughters," says an embassy flunkie. "We have managed to rent them a house in Holland Park which they will move into next week. It is quite adequate for a man of his position — medium-sized dining room, fitted kitchen and all that." Cold comfort indeed, after the sweeping staircases and gilt-edged banquet-rooms of Winfield House.

Rogue mail

THE VAGARIES of new art have failed to impress grandees at the Royal Mail, who have deemed the catalogue to the Royal Academy exhibition *Sensations* too obscene to handle. Images such as the portrait of Myra Hindley and Mark Quinn's *Blood Head*, made with nine pints of his own blood, have overtaken sensibilities in the postroom. "It's too louché," quails a buff envelope there. "Under Section 11 of the Obscenity Act, we do not deliver anything that is shocking, lewd or indecent."

Indeed, so the gallery's 80 academicians have received copies by courier (cost per delivery: £10). "Our lawyers advised us to use couriers," says an academy dauber. "It's odd there is such a fuss — most of the pictures in the catalogue are traditional." Well...

Girls talk

FURTHER to my scoop about the friendship between a music master and a sixth-former at Cheltenham Ladies' College, distressing confessions from old girls have been flooding into my study.

"Why do you assume that Cheltenham Ladies' College is a 'bastion of innocence'?" writes one woman who was a pupil in the 1960s. "Our head of house conducted an affair with a teacher and was never found out. A friend entertained her boyfriend in the middle of the night when they heard the housemistress and he was dispatched out of the window. The term 'Ladies' College' does not mean much."

Think big

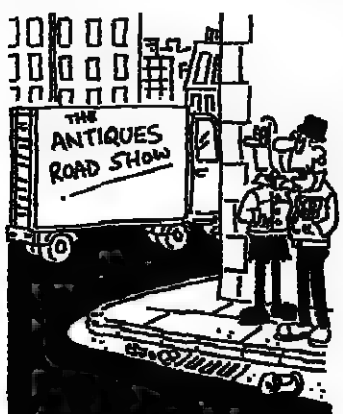
TRADING up, Kate Moss, diminutive model, has bought a vast townhouse in Central London, offloading her rather *de trop* pad



Moving up: Kate Moss

in Shepherd's Bush. Having pocketed £300,000 on the sale, Miss Moss has hired London's most innovative (ie, expensive) decorating company to revamp her new pad. "It will have stucco curved ceilings, stone-finished walls and mosaic floors. It is very funky but will cost thousands." Not bad for a lass from Croydon.

P.H.S



"I thought it was America the Rolling Stones were touring"



TOUGH AND TENDER

Jack Straw tries to be both hard cop and do-gooder

Politicians may once have been divided by A. J. P. Taylor into bishops and bookies but they also split between those happier at the dispatch box or with their red box. Some ministers, such as John Prescott and Michael Heseltine, are natural showmen, debaters and campaigners whose rhetoric can rouse their backbenchers. Other ministers thrive away from the limelight, in the slow development of policy and legislative spadework. Peter Lilley was such a figure in the last administration and Jack Straw is in this. The Home Secretary is the second member of the Cabinet whose progress we review in the run-up to Labour's conference and he is one of the Government's action men. Yesterday saw his most significant policy initiative so far — on juvenile crime. The philosophical thrust of the policy was admirable but it will be on practical results that Mr Straw knows he will be judged.

An early acquaintance with government, as special adviser to Barbara Castle when the Baroness was in Harold Wilson's Cabinet, combined with an apprenticeship in student politics, a barrister's training, a closeness to his leader and a moral cast of mind have given Mr Straw a degree of authority in this administration consonant with the seniority of his office. He has certainly thrown that weight around. On devolution (a sceptic), PR (ditto) and fox hunting (sensitive to rural arguments) he has made the arguments that some colleagues did not want to hear. A Government with the majority this one enjoys needs to have strong voices at the top asking awkward questions.

It is, however, as Tony Blair's Home Secretary and not his Devil's Advocate that Mr Straw will be judged. In opposition Mr Straw was caricatured as an authoritarian engaged in an unseemly auction of populism with Michael Howard. In office even critics have had to adjust the picture. There has been one direct policy change, an abandonment of the pledge to end private prisons, but more significant has been the broader change of emphasis at the Home Office, both from what might have been expected and also from Mr Howard's term.

Pressure groups, whose advice Mr Howard would no more take than he would elocution lessons, now enjoy access and respect although the effect of such openness is not yet apparent on policy. Civil servants have found Mr Straw closer to their culture than his predecessor, a rapprochement helped by the presence of a former DHSS civil servant, Norman Warner, as special adviser. On prison policy, although Mr Straw does not want a laxer approach, he is keen to find tough alternatives to incarceration, as Douglas Hurd and John Patten were before Mr Howard took office. It was to Mr Howard's credit that he was prepared to question a Home Office orthodoxy which had become unquestioningly liberal but, thanks in great part to his efforts, the debate has moved on since he took office. Mr Straw's less obviously abrasive but still activist posture may better fit the times.

Mr Straw's plans for the juvenile justice system are certainly not those of a milkop liberal. A tightening of a caution procedure which has, in some areas, fallen into disrepute, the abolition of the *doli incapax* rule on the age of criminal responsibility, the introduction of curfews and the insistence on greater parental responsibility are all welcome steps in tackling juvenile crime. The proposals may not live up to all the hopes vested in them. There is only so much that reform of the justice system can do to tackle juvenile crime: but Mr Straw's reforms should have an effect on the margins.

Mr Straw is, understandably, anxious in office to show that he is developing a distinctive new Labour approach to home affairs, balancing toughness in criminal justice with new rights for minorities. His pledges on homosexual law reform are part of that strategy, as is the commitment to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. The jury is still, however, out on a minister who has not endured one of the crises which haunt his office, has not had an acrimonious spending battle to fight and has not been challenged in the courts or tested heavily in committee. Mr Straw has made a solid start but the biggest hurdles are still to come.

DOCTORS ON THE AIR

Welcome medical aid for the campaign against pollution

The British Medical Association has now thrown its professional and scientific weight behind the campaign to cut car usage and encourage a switch to public transport. Underlining what many city dwellers suffering from nausea, asthma or heart disease now experience, the BMA has given a warning of serious health consequences if long-term traffic levels are not brought under control. Air pollution, it says, has risen alarmingly. The foul air on busy streets, especially noxious in summer, has led to a 50 per cent rise in childhood asthma over the past 30 years; between 1980 and 1990 hospital admissions increased from 4,000 to 10,000.

The BMA does not hesitate to point the finger of blame: inadequate public transport, an obstinate increase in car use and government complacency have all contributed to worsening air quality. Sore eyes, dry coughs, recurrent colds and chronic bronchitis, even among schoolchildren, are a fact of today's cities. The BMA's criticism is the more incisive because it does not stem from the emotion of a lobby group.

The Government insists that it is committed to implementing the National Air Quality Strategy as soon as possible. To many, the claim rings hollow. The previous Government also promised to cut pollution and promised a range of short-term and long-term measures to stop noxious exhaust smothering the inner cities. What has come of those? Much was made of the new powers

given to the police and local authorities to impose on-the-spot fines for cars and lorries belching black smoke. But rarely is a lorry pulled over. Few know the phone numbers of the hotlines to report polluting vehicles. Local authorities seem indifferent.

What neither they nor the public are ready to face is the unpopular fact that most pollution is caused by private cars. Restraint and persuasion can help, as in Germany, fines could be imposed on drivers, especially of coaches and lorries, who let their engines idle while they wait to load or pick up passengers. Parking in city centres should be reduced, cycle paths opened and schoolchildren encouraged to walk to school. All such measures are, however, palliatives. So relentless is the rise in traffic, so obdurate the attachment to private motoring and so overcrowded are Britain's roads and city centres that only legislation can now make a significant difference.

Motorway tolls will inevitably be introduced once the technology for their collection has been perfected. In the towns, the car must be kept out, by price or by law. Why have so few cities in Britain turned their centres into pedestrian zones compared to continental Europe? Why has London made almost no effort to divert traffic from the centre, apart from the "ring of steel" thrown around the City to protect property from the IRA? Until public transport is swift, clean, efficient and regular, it will be no alternative to the car.

LITTLE ROCK LEGACY

Clinton commemorates desegregation in Arkansas

For most of its history the city of Little Rock has been little known to other residents of the United States. In 1992 — courtesy of Bill Clinton — it became a mystery to the wider world too. The one other exception to its anonymity occurred, however, in September 1957 when Governor Orval Faubus stood at the steps of the Central High School and blocked nine black children out of the all white establishment. In doing so he defied the direct orders of the Supreme Court and the federal Government. President Eisenhower broke his division and seizing control of the Arkansas National Guard. This small army ensured the school's desegregation.

President Clinton returned to Arkansas yesterday to commemorate this landmark event in the epic civil rights struggle and address the current state of American race relations. His speech was designed to reinforce Mr Clinton's commitment to racial reconciliation and to claim success on that score as a central part of his personal political legacy. In a career marked by much vacillation, the President has stuck by his stated principles on racial issues even when opinion polls — on such controversies as affirmative action — have suggested he should do otherwise.

The events of four decades ago and their evolution since are peppered with paradox. Arkansas itself was an improbable place to emerge as the symbol of Southern segregation. It was settled by impoverished farmers

with vast families and very few slaves. The state consisted of land left over when the better parts of the Louisiana purchase were divided to form Louisiana and Missouri and Oklahoma was fenced off as Indian territory. It had no grand plantations or great landowners. The black population here was the smallest of any state in the Confederacy.

Governor Faubus had not been known for his previous extremism. He seems to have been motivated as much by his quest for reelection as sheer racism. President Eisenhower lacked any real enthusiasm for the desegregation that the Supreme Court had imposed upon him. He felt compelled to act once his authority had been challenged. The Governor's stand not only failed to save segregation in Little Rock but forced a reluctant Senate to pass the first Civil Rights Act since the 1860s. All Arkansas schools would not be fully integrated for another decade still and then by Winthrop Rockefeller, the state's first Republican Governor in a century.

The President is himself part of this complex picture. Mr Clinton was 11 years old at the time of the Little Rock stand-off. His formative years were powerfully influenced by the aftermath of segregation. The staunch support of Southern blacks has been at the core of his state and national constituency. The scandals that have attended the Clinton tenure have been a mixed blessing for his adopted city. But he has, at least, ensured that Mr Faubus will no longer be the most famous former Governor of Arkansas.

Cook's comment on Saudi verdict

From Mr Graham Wade

Sir, Of course most Westerners, including Robin Cook, find aspects of Islamic law "wholly unacceptable" (leading article, September 23). Punishments which include amputations, repeated floggings, public beheadings/hangings seem repulsive, barbaric and medieval.

We should make our moral position clear, as we did formerly against the inhumanity of Soviet justice. There are issues here which transcend the immediate cases under consideration.

Even more repugnant are *in camera* processes by which Sharia verdicts are reached. If women can be forced to confess by the prospect of rape and physical abuse (you call this kind of interrogation "rough"), with no other evidence made publicly available, any legal system founded on such methods lacks all credibility.

The Saudi Ambassador has commented that they would not change their legal system for "bleeding-heart liberals". We do not expect them to.

But neither can we expect us, for whatever reasons, to endorse by discreet silence a legal system which we perceive to be cruel, sluggish, unreliable and against our every instinct.

Yours etc,
GRAHAM WADE,
34 Holmwood Avenue,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.
September 25.

From Mr Harry Blundred

Sir, I fully endorse your leading article today. The plain facts are that one Scottish and one English nurse have been found guilty in a properly constituted court in Saudi Arabia of murdering or participating in the murder of an Australian colleague; that one has been sentenced to eight years' imprisonment (about the going rate in Britain for murder) and 500 lashes; and that the other may or may not be sentenced to death.

In accepting the hospitality of the Saudi people, and the high financial rewards of working in that country, the two nurses would have been fully aware of the penalties for crime in that strictly Islamic state.

By protesting so vigorously, the Foreign Secretary not only demonstrates his inexperience in diplomacy and his naivety but has certainly made less likely the granting of clemency by the Saudi Government, and all in the name of playing to the gallery of political correctness.

Yours truly,
HARRY BLUNDRED,
Ladram House, Otterton, Devon.
September 25.

From Dr I. H. Khan

Sir, The Foreign Secretary has openly condemned the flogging sentence passed on a British citizen in Saudi Arabia.

Will he now equally openly condemn all such past and future sentences passed on other workers in that country who happen to be Pakistanis, Filipinos, Bangladeshis, etc?

Yours sincerely,
IZHAR KHAN,
101 South Anderson Drive, Aberdeen.
September 25.

Labour and Lib Dems

From Lord Amptill

Sir, My kinsman Earl Russell is being more than usually professional in his letter today.

Even if he can speak for all his colleagues, his threat to withdraw Liberal Democrat support in the Lords when the devolution Bills reach us is empty and should in no way spoil the Prime Minister's sleep or that of Mr Mandelson, if he ever takes any.

I have no doubt that the Government will get the legislation forecast in their manifesto, sensibly amended of course, even without the help of the forthcoming influx of their supporters.

Yours faithfully,
AMPTILL,
House of Lords.
September 25.

From Mr Guy Baker

Sir, Paddy Ashdown's entertaining "parody of the witches' scene in *Macbeth*" (Matthew Parris, September 25) was at odds with later passages in his speech.

We must question his sincerity when, having kicked the Tories when they are down, he then talks of "constructive opposition", of working with Mr Blair to "change the culture of our politics", of "taking risks".

It was certainly easier for Mr Ashdown to "trade insults" yesterday in the interests of political expediency than to practise what he preaches.

His prayer might more appropriately be to curry favour with Mr Blair, to keep the Liberal Democrat "purists" on side, and to hope that nobody shouts "Humbly!"

Yours faithfully,
CLY BAKER,
Hill Cottage, Feathers Hill,
Hatfield Broad Oak, Hertfordshire.
September 25.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Class, money and access to the Bar

From Mr George Stern

Sir, Cherie Booth, QC, claims that the problem with the Bar is that poor students can't afford it and that barristers work 24 hours a day (report and Law Interview, September 23).

As the Bar's *Chambers Pupillages and Awards Handbook* shows, most pupils get substantial grants. Besides, many promising students get grants for the preceding law courses. And there are not many lighted windows in the Inns of Court after 9pm. No barristers work 24 hours a day — and few work 12. Plenty don't do either.

The problem with the Bar is that fees are too high, and they are kept high because the Bar only allows half those qualified to practise. The student passes all examinations and is called to the Bar — then finds that he needs pupillages to practise.

The examination process is fair, but pupillages are awarded at the sole discretion of chambers — and can be awarded to friends and relatives or on the basis of ageism, sexism and old school tie. This halves the number of those in practice — and so increases the fees of those who have got in.

Beware breast-beating closed shops: the admitted faults are never the real ones.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE STERN
(Pupil barrister),
6 Eton Court, 6 Shepherds Hill, N6.
September 23.

From Mr John Pelican

Sir, Cherie Booth is right to call for more action by the Bar to broaden access. This help should encompass older candidates who, having succeeded in their law education and Bar training, face ageism when seeking pupillage and vacancies in chambers.

A substantial number of such candidates are women, now in middle age, whose initial career choice in the 1970s was tightly circumscribed. Many have invested massively in their attempted career move, and face a far-from-gentle poverty as they attempt to pay the associated debts. Judged by commercial criteria or those of public utility, such candidates have years of good, cost-effective ser-

Yorkshire split?

From Mr David Rowe, MEP for Cleveland and Richmond (Party of European Socialists Group (Labour))

Sir, Yorkshire now has the leader of the Conservative Party and the leader of the Conservatives in the European Parliament. But relations between the two have not got off to a great start.

Edward McMillan-Scott backed Kenneth Clarke for the leadership of the party in a consultative vote. McMillan-Scott said of William Hague "We've got to give him a little more time to settle in". These are not the words of a man supporting his party leader. One wonders how much more time McMillan-Scott is prepared to give him (not that he has any say in the matter as MEPs do not have a vote in party leadership elections).

By the way, under the headline "Tory MEPs pick leader who is likely to clash with Hague" (September 17, earlier editions), you report that McMillan-Scott is to lead Tory MEPs to "Downing Street" for their first meeting with Mr Hague. Surely not. Or are they planning to meet in the street outside the Prime Minister's residence?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ROWE,
10 Harris Street,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

Probation targets

From Mr Martin Wargent

Sir, Far from being a "strong indictment" of the Probation Service (report, September 19), the Home Secretary's speech in Essex was thought-provoking. It set a strong agenda and was well received by probation staff.

The Home Secretary was appreciative of the developments in the Probation Service over recent years, including the great strides made on assessing risk and working with other agencies in handling dangerous offenders. He commented on the excellent ideas in the service and referred positively to a programme run in Essex for serious offenders which is similar to work being undertaken across the country.

Counting the pennies

From Mr Raymond Hodgson

Sir, Mrs Ingram Lloyd's letter on the shortage of 1p coins (September 24) reminded me that Australia tackled the problem a few years ago by withdrawing from circulation all 1 cent and 2 cent coins and, in cash transactions only, rounding up or down to the nearest 5 cents.

Items are still priced using odd cents, it is only on the total that the 5 cent rule applies. In non-cash transactions the full range of cents is used without rounding up or down.

This works admirably in practice and most people seem to be quite content with the system.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND HODGSON,
2 Munro Avenue,
Woolley,
Reading, Berkshire.
September 24.

vice to offer. They seek only to be treated on merit.

The Bar is not so rich in ability that it can afford to turn up its nose at such a source of talent.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PELICAN,
Flat C, 27 Maude Road,
Camberwell, SE5.
September 23.

From Miss Catherine Newman, QC

Sir, Cherie Booth and I were, perhaps, fortunate to have had the opportunity of a good education in well run and properly financed state grammar schools, followed by legal training undertaken with the benefit of decent means-tested grants and fees funded by local education authorities. Qualifying about 20 years ago, and like students of every generation, we managed somehow — most of us had part-time jobs as well.

Over the last decade all good chambers have allocated substantial resources to the funding of pupils and junior tenants; very few need to be told that this is now necessary and desirable. In general our generation did not begin life at the Bar with the huge levels of debt which new entrants bring with them nowadays as the legacy of their undergraduate years.

We have been living with this problem for years, but we cannot solve it by ourselves.

Yours faithfully,
CATHERINE NEWMAN,
13 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
September 23.

From Mrs June A. Hoad

Sir, Concerning the alleged upward social mobility of Cherie Booth, QC, I am curious to know whether all actors are "working class", or do Liverpoolians automatically qualify? Perhaps it is just those who appear in "working-class" sitcoms: in which case does the description also apply to Anthony Booth's former co-star?

Yours faithfully,
JUNE HOAD,
64 Windsor Road,
Kew, Richmond, Surrey.
September 23.

Flintshire devoted?

From Mr Ron West

Sir, Only 25 per cent of the Welsh people voted for the expensive extra layer of talking-shop bureaucracy. This is to be forced on them all as if it were a region-wide majority of Scottish proportions.

However, I note that Cardiff itself voted against — only 21 per cent of the electorate there voted in favour: not the most auspicious start for a new seat of Parliament. And no doubt it will be the English taxpayer who has to pay for it all, as usual.

It has been suggested that if Wales were a separate country it would fall the Maastricht criteria for the common currency by a margin of 12 per cent — five times the criteria figure. Yet I see that only 15 per cent of the inhabitants of Flintshire voted in favour of devolution.

Would it not be the democratic thing to allow Flintshire to vote on whether they should be ruled and represented by distant Cardiff, or by Liverpool, a few miles away across the Dee?

Yours etc,
RON WEST,
158 Chichester Road,
Croydon, Surrey.
ron_west@compuserve.com
September 19.

Probation staff in Essex welcomed Mr Straw's pragmatic approach to new methods of tackling crime and in his expressed aim of dealing with its underlying causes.

We fully agree with rigorous enforcement and high standards. Our agenda of public protection coincides with that of the Home Secretary. It is at the heart of what we do and believe in.

Home Office plans for the service, as outlined in this speech, make good sense.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN WARGENT
(Chief Probation Officer),
Essex Probation Service,
Cullen Mill,
49 Braintree Road, Witham, Essex.
September 19.

Selection of bishops

From Mr Chilion Wood

Sir, Dr Robert de Massey (letter, September 23) writes that the Prime Minister may have been praying before deciding about the new Bishop of Liverpool.

We need not doubt him. But if there were a democratic election (the electors being those on the electoral rolls of Anglican churches in Liverpool) then some thousands of voters would pray before deciding.

This should give a more reliable result. Mr Blair has many other important matters requiring prayer, and nobody can be expected to get it right every time.

Yours faithfully,
CHILION WOOD,
5 Haynes Lane,
Upper Norwood, SE19.
x084@diapix.com
September 23.

Is it a plane, crisp packet or octopus?

From Mr Ronald G. Martin

Sir, The new logo of the British Tourist Authority (report and illustration, September 23) is surely a much more subtle than the designers, in their wildest dreams, could possibly have contemplated.

A red octopus (new Labour) seems to be crushing the Conservatives (blue) in its tentacles, whilst the Liberal Democrats (orange) and the environmentalists (green) are sidelined in the margins.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. MARTIN,
26 Church Road,
Beverly, Yorkshire.
September 24.

From Mr L. F. S. Coombs

Sir, The British Tourist Authority's new logo mocks the Union Flag.

The logo flag is incorrect because the red St Patrick's cross is joined at the centre to the red cross of St George, whereas there should be a break.

This is another example of the way in which our flag is often corrupted by artists; something other countries would not tolerate.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE COOMBS,
12 Beach Walk, Mill Hill, NW7.
September 23.

From Mr Dominic Baker

Sir, Can we assume that the ten designers involved in the creation of the new logo for Britain were also involved in the new design on British Airways' tailfins?

Yours faithfully,
DOMINIC BAKER,
134 Elm Park Mansions,
Park Walk, SW10.
dominic.baker@framington.co.uk
September 24.

From Mr Gerry Hanson

Sir, My first impression of the new logo is of a hot-air balloon in Union Flag livery slowly deflating where it has landed in a field.

Yours truly,
GERRY HANSON,
Potters Lodge,
74a Slough Road,
Iwer Heath, Buckinghamshire.
September 23.

From Mr Albert Bartram

Sir, The new logo, which cost £160,000 to produce, reminds me of a used crisp packet.

Yours faithfully,
A. BARTRAM,
177 Hivings Hill,
Chesham, Buckinghamshire.
September 23.

City frills

From Mr Paul Reading

Sir, It was interesting to see that the pupils of Christ's Hospital School at Horsham still maintain their link with the City of London ("Pupils walk out for a City lunch with all the frills", report and photograph, September 20). Your report said that nobody could recall the whole school turning out for the event before.

In fact this happened in 1952, the year of the school's 400th anniversary. The impact on London traffic was similar and there were plenty of proud parents lining the route.

As an eleven-year-old I made my mark by fainting in St Paul's Cathedral and being carried up the central aisle while the Lord Mayor and entourage processed in the opposite direction.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL READING,
Dove Cottage,
5 Years Lane, Colden Common,
Winchester, Hampshire.
September 20.

New Cornish horror

From Mr Jack Crossley

Sir, Catherine Boyd Brent writes from Devon about "grockles" in Cornwall (letters, September 22). While "grockles" may be the Devon term for tourists, in Cornwall they are generally known as "emnets" (Cornish for ants).

The Scilly Isles are much more polite and call them "visitors", although I have heard Scillonians say: "In the winter we do flowers. In the summer we do visitors."

Yours faithfully,
JACK CROSSLEY,
23 Tournay Road, SW6.
September 22.

Fact and fiction

From Mr R. Smythe

Sir, Following the apology by the BBC over the "stereotyped and prejudiced" portrayal of Irish life in an episode of *EastEnders* (news in brief, September 24), might we now look forward to a similar apology to the residents of East London?

Yours faithfully,
R. SMYTHE,
12 Thistledown Drive,
Heath Hayes,
Cannock, Staffordshire.
September 24.



COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 25: The Prince of Wales, President, today launched the Phoenix Trust at Stanley Mills.

Stanley, Perthshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross (Sir David Montgomery, Bt).

Today's royal engagements

Princess Margaret will open Tim Jones House, the new headquarters of Youth Clubs Sussex, Rochester Gardens, Hove, at 4.10. The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, Parkinson's Disease Society, will visit the Parkinson's Disease Brain Research Centre, London University, WCL, at 11.00.

General Sir John Hackett

A Memorial Service for General Sir John Hackett, CBE, DSO, MC, will be held at 3.00pm on Monday, November 24, in St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. Those attending are asked to inform the Regimental Secretary, Queen's Royal Hussars, Regents Park Barracks, Albany Street, London, NW1 4AL. Telephone: 0171 414 8719.

Mr Harry Chimes

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Harry Chimes will take place on October 26 at 3.00pm at St Peter's Church, The Lower Village, Herwall, Wirral.

Lecture

The Royal Academy of Engineering, Sir David Davies, CBE, FRS, President of The Royal Academy of Engineering, presided at the 1997 Hinton Lecture and Dinner held last night at Carlton House Terrace, London. The guest speaker was Mr Ian Liddell, FRS, Partner, Buro Happold Consulting Engineers, who spoke on 'Creating the Dome'.

Receptions

The Earl of Stockton was the host at a reception held yesterday at the House of Lords for the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Sir Brian Jenkins, president of the chamber, and Lord Stockton received the guests.

Fulbright Commission
A reception was held last night at the American Embassy in honour of the 49th group of American Fulbright Scholars at the start of their year in the United Kingdom. Mr Robin Berrington, Cultural Attaché at the embassy and Chairman of the Fulbright Commission, welcomed the guests.

Five new awards, sponsored by McKinsey and Company, for British graduates who wish to undertake an MBA in the United States, were announced.

Service reunion

6th QEO Gurkha Rifles
Lieutenant Colonel Bijay Kumar Rawat, RGR, and Major (QGO) Balraj Kumar, MVO, RGR, were the guests of honour at the Annual Reunion of the Regimental Association held at Church Crookham on Saturday. Major General R. A. Pett, CB, MBE, presided. 135 members and guests were present.

Hampshire Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Hampshire: Viscount Fitzharris, of Hook; Mrs Lindsay Fox, of Cheriton, near Alton; Mr Richard House, of Basingstoke; Mr Mark Redcliffe, of Upton, Andover; Mrs Jean Vernon-Jackson, of Lymington; Lord Whitehead, of Old Alresford.

Today's birthdays

Miss Lucie Aldous, ballerina, 59; Mrs Julia Allison, former general secretary, Royal College of Midwives, 58; Mrs Margaret Bryan, former diplomat, 68; Lady (Hugh) Cason, architect and designer, 84; Mr Ian Chappell, cricketer, 54; Mr Neil Cole, golfer, 62; Mr Bryan Perry, rock singer, 52; Sir Alan Glynn, former MP, 79; Lord Griffiths, 74; Air Commodore Joy Harris, former matron-in-chief, PMRAPS, 71; Sir James Hennessy, former diplomat, 74; Professor Louise Johnson, FRS,

biophysicist, 57; Mr P.T. Lewis, former chairman, John Lewis Partnership, 68; Mr Elyn Lloyd, MP, 46.

Sir Ronald McIntosh, former chairman, APV, 78; The Rev Dr Ernest Nicholson, FBA, Provost, Christ Church, Oxford, 59; Mr G.W. Pusack, former chairman, Mobil Oil Company, 77; Marshall of the RAF Sir Denis Spotswood, 81; Mrs Margaret Thomas, painter, 81; Mr V.H. Watson, former chairman, John Waddington, 69.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Theodore Gericault, painter, Rouen, 1791; Charles Bradlaugh, freethought advocate and politician, London, 1833; Ivan Pavlov, physiologist, Ryazan, Russia, 1849; Sir Barnes Wallis, engineer, Ripley, Derbyshire, 1887; T.S. Eliot, poet, dramatic critic, Northampton, 1898; St Louis, Missouri, 1888; Martin Heidegger, philosopher, Messkirch, Germany, 1889; Giovanni Battista Montini, Pope Paul VI 1963-78, Concesio, Italy, 1897; George Gershwin, composer, New York, 1898.

DEATHS: Thomas Clarkson, anti-slavery agitator, Playford Hall, Ipswich, 1846; August Ferdinand Möbius, astronomer, Leipzig, 1868; James Earl Ray, founder of the Independent Labour Party, Glasgow, 1915; Edgar Degas, painter, Paris, 1917; Beatie Smith, the

empress of the blues, 1937; W.H. Davies, poet, Nallsworth, Gloucestershire, 1940; Wilson Carille, founder of the Church Army, Woking, 1942; Bela Bartok, composer, New York, 1945; Solomon Bandershteyn, Prime Minister of Ceylon 1956-59, died of wounds inflicted by an assassin on September 25, Colombo, 1959; Peter Dawson, baritone, Sydney, New South Wales, 1961.

New Zealand became a dominion, 1907.

Queen Mary launched *The Queen Mary*, Clydebank, 1934.

The Bernstein-Sondheim musical *West Side Story* was first performed in New York, 1957.

Freddie Laker's Skytrain took off from Gatwick for New York with tickets at only 63p, 1977.



The Pitminster Boy was painted by Gainsborough while he was living in Bath in the late 1760s

Painting returns to artist's birthplace

By JOHN SHAW

A PORTRAIT by Thomas Gainsborough which has been seen in public only twice since 1946, has just gone on show at Gainsborough's House Museum, the artist's birthplace, in Sudbury, Suffolk.

The canvas, measuring 23in by 20in, shows an unknown youth caught by surprise in a picture known as *The Pitminster Boy*. Pitminster is a hamlet near Taunton, Somerset.

It was painted when Gainsborough was living in Bath in the late 1760s. It shows the sensitivity of the artist and his

energetic use of oil paint and was probably completed in about 90 minutes.

Hugh Belsey, curator of the museum, said: "The picture has a romantic background. The story goes that the boy was employed to grind the artist's colours in a local country house where he was painting."

"One day Gainsborough went into his studio and found this boy had set up a palette and was about to have a go at painting himself. As he looked round rather guiltily Gainsborough apparently shouted to him to stand still and painted his portrait on the spot."

Mr Belsey said the story was recounted by Juliana Horatia Ewing, a Victorian novelist, in *Jan of the Windmill* in 1884.

The picture has been handed down in the family of the present owner ever since and has only been seen in two exhibitions, one in Taunton in 1946 and the second at the Tate Gallery in London in 1980.

Mr Belsey said: "It has been lent to us for five years initially and is very pretty. It's a most intimate portrait and because of that I think it looks better in the intimacy of a house than in a museum. We are delighted to have it on loan."

Institution of Civil Engineers

Queen's Jubilee Scholarship Trust

The following applicants have been awarded QUEST Scholarships for 1997:

Baker J R (Cambridge); Bessan J (Cambridge); Bishop C S (Edinburgh); Booth C G R (Edinburgh); Chadwick S A (Bristol); Crawford, Candie T (Wales); Cuthbert A C (Durham); Dalrymple C D A (Cambridge); Evans R F (Newcastle); Eyre C (Edinburgh); Fotherby C J (Sheffield); Jamieson H (Oxford); Jones M R (Nottingham); Monson G J (Cambridge); Pannammy M D (Birmingham); Roberts C S (Bath); Roger E B (Wales); Sloan V (Edinburgh); Smith J M A (Imperial); Smith P J (Imperial); Stevenson J L (Cambridge).

The QUEST Scholarship is awarded to encourage and promote education in the art and science of civil engineering.

Latest wills

Lady (Rosemary Ella) Whitaker, of Northwood, Coventry, late of 11, left estate valued at £215,302 net.

James, Countess of Carlisle, of Duns Tew Manor, Duns Tew, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £215,302 net.

A classic day of piping

By ANGUS NICOL

THE second day of the Northern Meeting piping competition started as always with the Gold Clasp competition for pipers. This event was introduced in 1996 as a competition for those who have already won the Gold Medal. There was no set list this year, and competitors had to submit eight tunes of their own choice. The result was a recital, lasting most of the day, in which 14 of the great classical tunes were played, without any time being repeated.

The winner of the Gold Clasp was Michael Cusack, who played the Senior Pibroch and first Lord Reay, who died in 1649. He was a great friend and ally of Donald MacCrimmon, who composed the tune. In second place, William Livingstone played *Lord Lovat's Lament*, composed after the execution of Lord Lovat in 1747, by his clansman, David Fraser, he of the Lovat Indenture. Angus MacColl gave an excellent performance of *The United Jacobites*, a lament for the Jacobite cause, perhaps a protest against his own blindness. This performance took

third prize. The fourth prize was won by Sergeant Gordon Walker with a very fine performance of *The Lament for the Children*. This tune was composed by Patrick Mor MacCrimmon, son of Donald Mor, after the death within one year of seven of his eight sons, all but Patrick.

The Gold Clasp is actually a cup, for the best piper in the Clasp and former winners march, strathspey and reel, was awarded to Michael Cusack. No competitor won a prize in both, and the rule is that the winner of the pibroch event takes precedence.

Final results: Gold Clasp: 1. Michael Cusack; 2. William Livingstone; 3. Angus MacColl; 4. Sgt Gordon Walker. Judges: Donald MacCrimmon, James Young, Angus MacCrimmon.

Strathspey and reel: 1. Ian K Macdonald; 2. John Patrick; 3. Donald MacRie; 4. Niall Macdonald. Judges: Capt Gavin Stoddart, Dr William Fraser, Neil MacRie.

Hornpipe and jig: 1. Sgt Gordon Walker; 2. Alexander Gillies; 3. Rodney Macdonald; 4. Ewan MacCrimmon. Judges: Malcolm Macdonald, Alan Forbes, PIM Ronald Lawrie.

Pibroch: 1. Don MacRie; 2. Brian MacKenzie; 3. Ewan MacCrimmon; 4. Finlay MacCrimmon. Judges: PIM Ronald Lawrie.

Under-18 march, strathspey and reel: 1. Don MacRie; 2. Brian MacKenzie; 3. Ewan MacCrimmon; 4. Finlay MacCrimmon. Judges: PIM Ronald Lawrie.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr E. Whitfield and Miss K. Harrold. The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Major Michael and Lady Fiona Whitfield, of Zimbabwe, and Katherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tim Harrold, of Guildford, Surrey.

Captain D.E.A. Cole and Miss R.L. Beck. The engagement is announced between Captain David Cole, son of Dr and Mrs Jonathan Dunkin, of the Queen's Dragon Guards, son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Cole, of Wotton-on-the-Hill, Surrey, and Rhiannon, daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Beck, of Eynon, Cardiff.

Mr D.J. Denton and Miss H.E. Morris-Eyton. The engagement is announced between David, twin son of the late Mr Hugh Denton and of Mrs Patricia Anderson, of Greywalls Farm, Wellingborough, and Helen, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Morris-Eyton, of Beckside, Millom, Cumbria.

Dr C.S.J. Dunkin and Miss M.L. Pacey. The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Dr and Mrs Jonathan Dunkin, of Grantham, Lincolnshire, and Lucinda, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Pacey, of Westerdale, North Yorkshire.

Mr N. Goodwin and Miss H. Peller. The engagement is announced between Neil, son of the late Mr and Mrs James Goodwin, of Salford, Greater Manchester, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Peller, of Bakewell, Derbyshire.

Mr G.I. Mathew and Miss E.F.M. Vauderick-Awck. The engagement is announced between Charles, son of the late Mr Francis Mathew and of Mrs Mathew, of Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire, and Eleanor, daughter of Mr and Mrs John A. Vanderlier-Awck, of Little Bowden, Leicestershire.

Mr C.A.E. Hordern and Miss S. Legood. The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs Edward Hordern, of Cane End, Oxfordshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Legood, of Exeter, Devon.

Mr D.S.B. Moorhead and Miss J.C. Kay. The engagement is announced between Seamus, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robert Moorhead, of Smeth, Kent, and Juliet, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Kay, of Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

Mr R.G. Perry and Miss R.E. Johnson. The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Perry, of Astrop, Northamptonshire, and Emma, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Brian Johnson, of Willaston, Wirral.

Marriages

Mr J.J. Chadwick and Mrs F.E. Swan. The marriage took place on Thursday, September 25, 1997, in Richmond, of Mr Jonathan Chadwick, of Richmond, Surrey, son of Mr Arthur Chadwick and of Mrs Fiona Swan, of London SW6, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Stewart Blake.

Signor B.T. Cimei and Dr J.M. Boyes-Korkis. The marriage took place on Saturday, September 13, at All Saints Church, Rome, of Signor Bernardo Cimei, son of the late Signor Giuseppe and Signora Valeria Cimei, to Dr Jane Marina Boyes-Korkis, daughter of the late Mr Frederick Boyes-Korkis and of Mrs Jane Hall, of Iwer, Buckinghamshire.

Mr D. Reid Scott and Mrs C. McMullen. The marriage took place quietly in London yesterday between Mr David Reid Scott and Mrs Clare McMullen.

Baroness Knight of Collingtree

The life barony conferred upon Dame Joan Christabel Jill Knight has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baroness Knight of Collingtree, of Collingtree in the County of Northamptonshire.

Baron Levy

The life barony conferred upon Mr Michael Abraham Levy has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Levy, of Mill Hill in the London Borough of Barnet.

Baroness Amos

The life barony conferred upon Miss Valerie Ann Amos has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baroness Amos, of Broadstairs in the County of Kent.

Baron Hogg of Cumbernauld

The life barony conferred upon Mr Norman Hogg has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Hogg of Cumbernauld, of Cumbernauld in North Lanarkshire.

Baron Newby

The life barony conferred upon Mr Richard Mark Newby has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Newby, of Rothwell in the County of West Yorkshire.

Baron Randall of St Budeaux

The life barony conferred upon Mr Stuart Jeffrey Randall has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Randall of St Budeaux, of St Budeaux in the County of Devon.

Service dinner

HMS Victory
Admiral Sir John Briscoe, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command, and Lady Briscoe, were the hosts at a dinner held last night in HMS Victory, Portsmouth. The guests included: The Adjutant General and Lady General, the Marquis of the Diplomatic Corps and Lady Briscoe, the Vice-Chancellor of Portsmouth University and Mrs Brown and the Portsmouth Defence Attache and Mrs Mendenhall.

University news

Cambridge
St Edmund's College. The following have been elected Honorary Fellows of the college: Miss Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons; Professor Derek Burke, former Vice-Chancellor, University of East Anglia; The Right Rev Peter Smith, Bishop of East Anglia. Miss Morna Gardner has been appointed Director of Finance and Administration from September 1.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Robert Whybourn, NSM, Milrow (Manchester); to be NSM Curran, Greenfield St Mary (same diocese).
The Rev Brian Wilson, Rector, Hornsea w/ Alwick (York); to be Rector, Uckfield; Little Horsted, and Iwer (Chichester).
Retirements and resignations
The Rev Richard Capstick, Team Vicar, Brighton St Peter and St Nicholas w/ The Chapel Royal (Chichester) retired September 5. The Rev Ivan Meads, Priest-in-Charge, Week St Mary w/ Poundstock and Whitstone (Trent) to retire September 30.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

PERSONAL COLUMN

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On 22nd August, to Tina and Richard, a son, Adam Richard Hamilton, a brother for Thomas.

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On 17th September, to Michelle (White) and Duncan, a daughter, Emily, a sister for Thomas.

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OBITUARIES

ADMIRAL SIR DEREK EMPSON

Admiral Sir Derek Empson, GBE, KCB, naval aviator, Second Sea Lord, 1971-74, and Vice-Admiral of the United Kingdom, 1986-88, died on September 20 aged 78. He was born on October 29, 1918.

Derek Empson was one of that exclusive but influential cadre of Fleet Air Arm officers who reached high rank after entering the Navy through the lower deck as naval ratings. He served for nearly four decades, and his experiences encompassed the whole history of Royal Navy aviation, from the ill-equipped struggles of the early years to the post-war heyday of high-performance jet-propelled aircraft operating from huge aircraft carriers.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he enlisted as a naval airman and volunteered for pilot training. Having qualified for the frontline squadron service as an acting sub-lieutenant, he was one of a draft of officers and men sent in the *SS City of Glasgow* via Cape Town to join the carrier *Hermes* in the Indian Ocean. On April 29 the ship was torpedoed in the Atlantic by U-75, which then surfaced and finished her off with gunfire. Empson and other survivors were in open boats for three days until rescued by a destroyer.

That December he was appointed to 813 Squadron in the carrier *Eagle*. Equipped with the famous "Stringbag" (the slow but agile Fairey Swordfish biplane) and some Sea Hurricanes, the squadron was

initially employed flying area patrols as far south as Cape Spargel, and in convoy protection. Embarked again in *Eagle*, the squadron took part in operations to deliver Spitfires to the beleaguered garrison at Malta. The squadron's Swordfish flew anti-submarine patrols with the Malta convoy during the hard-fought Operation Harpoon of June 1942, while fighters fended off waves of Italian and German aircraft.

Eagle survived this battle but was sunk by a submarine in August during Operation Pedestal, protecting the next Malta convoy. Most of those in 813 Squadron, including Empson, were fortunately disembarked at Gibraltar at the time. But the routine of Gibraltar patrols was soon disturbed by orders to fly to Tafaroui, near Algiers, to support the chiefly American invasion of North Africa of November 1942. Now fitted with radar, the Swordfish were employed defending the reinforcement shipping from submarines and in anti-shipping strikes. Besides occasional strafing by Messerschmitts, the various vicissitudes included a shortage of food, a lack of eating irons straw bedding and much mud.

On February 4, 1943, while photographing Algiers harbour, Empson was shot down by the *USS Thomas Stone*. With a wing on fire and no rudder controls, only his skillful piloting saved the lives of the aircraft, though the observer was badly wounded. The squadron diary noted sourly that the Americans must have mistaken an Allied single-engine monoplane for a German JU 88, a twin-engine monoplane bomber.

Empson was returned home in May, in need of a rest from operational flying, and was next employed training tele-



graphist airgunners in 755 Squadron at Worthy Down.

Returning to sea in April 1944 in 768 Squadron, he amassed an impressive number of deck landings on various aircraft carriers, in his role as a "clockwork mouse" — a pilot of sufficient experience to train fledgling landing signals officers (the "batmen" who control landings).

Empson now transferred to the regular Navy and was appointed lieutenant-commander (flying) to the new light fleet carrier *Vengeance*, which joined the British Pacific Fleet and was present at the liberation of Hong

Kong from the Japanese in August 1945.

Returning from the Far East in the following July, Empson was given command of 767 Squadron, equipped with various marques of Seaforce, and based near Lossiemouth on the Moray Firth. The squadron trained new pilots and "batmen" in deck landing techniques on most of the operational carriers. Three years later, Empson was appointed to command a frontline squadron of Fairy Fireflies, again in the Mediterranean with the *Vengeance*.

A two-year stint as a house officer at Dartmouth was re-

warded by promotion to commander and tours in Malta and with the carrier *Centaur* in the Far East. By this time, Empson had achieved a remarkable 782 deck landings without a single incident.

He was recognised as an officer of exceptional ability, and his subsequent appointments introduced him to the higher reaches of policy-making, as naval assistant to the Second and then the First Sea Lord. In this capacity he served both Earl Mountbatten and Admiral Sir Charles Lamb during the economies and restructuring of the Duncan Sandys era.

Tradition required a command at sea for a well-rounded career, and this was provided in Empson's case by the fast mine-layer *Apollo* and then by the fleet carrier *Eagle*, during a successful commission in the Mediterranean and the Far East. In marked contrast to the capabilities of his former ship of the same name, *Eagle* had recently been updated at the then large cost of £30 million to operate squadrons of Sea Vixen, Scimitar and Buccaneer jets.

Empson was promoted to rear-admiral in 1967 after a year as a student at the Imperial Defence College, and was appointed Flag Officer Aircraft Carriers, and subsequently Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air). Becoming full admiral in 1972, he achieved Admiralty Board rank as Second Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Personnel. From 1972 to his retirement in 1975, he was Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, 1974-75.

Notable for his deceptively relaxed approach, he was much admired for his professionalism and his courtesy to all ranks. He had been appointed CB in 1969 was advanced to KCB in 1973 and was made GBE in 1975. He was Vice-Admiral of the United Kingdom, 1986-88.

In retirement he interested himself in media matters, co-founding Rymark, a small film company which made films for the Navy, as well as working for Warner Communications and as a consultant to Thorn EMI. In 1982 he spearheaded the efforts of thirty companies trying to reduce video piracy. He was also chairman of the governors of Eastbourne College from 1971 to 1988.

He is survived by his wife Diana, whom he married in 1958, and by their son and daughter.

MARY O'BRIEN



Mary O'Brien, physicist, died of cancer on August 28 aged 66. She was born on June 6, 1931.

IN AN academic career of nearly 30 years, spent almost exclusively in Oxford, Mary O'Brien epitomised the qualities common to women of her generation. She not only inspired many generations of physicists and mathematicians as a tutor at Lady Margaret Hall and a lecturer in theoretical physics, but maintained right up to her death an active research programme which brought her international recognition.

Mary Clare Milward O'Brien went up as an undergraduate to Lady Margaret Hall in 1949 from Bedales. She took a first in maths and physics and went on to attain a DPhil under the supervision of M. H. L. Pryce.

At that time the Clarendon Laboratory led the world in the study of the properties of magnetic crystals, using the low-temperature techniques developed by Sir Francis Simon, Nicholas Kurti and their colleagues, together with the use of microwave sources developed for wartime radar to study magnetic resonance. The theoretical physics group collaborated closely with this experimental programme, and O'Brien worked in this area. On the strength of her research she was awarded a Henry Fellowship (one of very few women so distinguished at that time) and worked at Harvard in 1955-56 under the guidance of J. H. Van Vleck, who later won the Nobel Prize for his work in magnetism.

In 1956 she was appointed to a tutorial fellowship at her college, initially with responsibilities for physics, engineering and mathematics. By the 1960s the expansion of the university and the removal of the limitations on the number of women undergraduates allowed the appointment of a college tutor in mathematics, but O'Brien continued to teach some applied mathematics for the rest of her career.

She impressed her students by the priority she afforded her subject, but she was also active in wider university affairs. She became very knowledgeable about the history and structure of the college buildings, and served on advisory committees for several new ones. She also had the sometimes thankless task of allocating college accommodation among the fellows and graduate students. From 1988 to 1993 she was vice-principal of Lady Margaret Hall.

Early in her research career she developed an interest in an effect named for its discoverers Jahn and Teller in the 1930s, which shows that under certain circumstances there can be a particularly strong interaction between the electrons in a magnetic ion or molecule and the vibrations of the atomic lattice in which they reside.

It was an attempt to exploit this phenomenon (erroneously as it turned out) that led to the recent discovery of high-temperature superconductivity. Using her mathematical expertise, particularly with group theory, O'Brien and her students and collaborators wrote more than 60 research papers, many of them devoted to this topic. Several more papers will be published posthumously.

O'Brien developed excellent computing skills as these became more important in science, and was responsible for some years for the development of computing facilities in Oxford's Department of Theoretical Physics. In later years she taught these skills to undergraduates, who were often amazed that someone nearly 50 years their senior was such a master of modern techniques.

Despite spending most of her professional life in Oxford, O'Brien was a great traveller. She spent periods at the General Electric Research Laboratories and at Yale, and was a regular speaker at international conferences on her subject. But she also travelled extensively for pleasure. On her first trip to the United States she took the opportunity to drive with a friend across the continent, often sleeping on top of their car since they were so short of money. In her later life she made a number of botanical trips to various far-flung places.

She had played the cello at school, and although she gave this up, she maintained an interest in music and made regular visits to Glyndebourne. In her thirties, largely through her friendship with the then tutor in Russian, Anne Pennington, she joined the Balkan dance group, with which she visited Yugoslavia, making numerous friends.

In the mid-1980s she and her mother acquired a small house close to the college. Its garden and birds gave them great pleasure. Unfortunately, illness caused her to give up dancing; but she went on travelling, and remained active in college and in her department until only a few weeks ago.

EDWIN BROCK

Edwin Brock, poet, died on September 7 aged 69. He was born on October 19, 1927.

WHEN in January 1959 the South London bobby PC 258 was revealed to his superiors in the Met to be a poet, they did not know what to make of him. The *Daily Express* headline — "The things he thinks up as he pounds the Peckham beat" — gave the impression that in Edwin Brock the force was harbouring a freethinker, a pervert or worse. PC 258 was duly reprimanded by a chief inspector and told with great severity that revelations of this sort should have gone through "the proper channels".

But Brock was as bemused as anyone by the press's sudden interest in him. It had come about when Alan Pryce-Jones, then Editor of *The Times Literary Supplement*, had published some of Brock's poems and mentioned the policeman poet to an *Express* reporter. By the more innocent standards of that time (before every jailbird became an undiscovered novelist of genius), the story was

too good to miss, and on January 8, 1959, Brock found his badge number leaping out at him in 48-point type. For some years he had been writing poems as he pondered the South London streets and their human and physical topography. It was a more than usually personal poem, entitled *When My Father Died*, that stimulated Pryce-Jones's interest.

On the day my father died
all the hoops in the
neighbourhood rang
skate wheels shrilled on
summer pavements
and I in my blacky-boots
clanged one foot in each gutter

On the day my father died
girls were running sunnily,
with wild hair
and hands of silk...

The poem owes much more to the lush Forties than to the spare "Movement" poets of the Fifties who were the young Brock's contemporaries; there is a good deal of undigested Dylan Thomas in its system.

Throughout his life it was said that Brock's poetry remained too personal and un-



controlled. By the time he reached his third book of verse, *With Love From Judas* (1963) — a self-excoriating account of the break-up of his first marriage — it was possible to detect a masochistic streak in the poet's confessions of hypocrisy and meanness of spirit, although at the same time he flayed his wife's infidelities unsparingly for the reading public.

But on the pleasurable morning of January 8, 1959, all this was in the future, and with the BBC and other newspapers following the news-

story, the police public relations machine was soon telling the Met's new star to stay at home and be ready for a spate of interviews.

Brock came from a completely unimpeachable South London background. His father was an electrician whose work often took him away from home. His death in a road accident when Brock was ten did not bring the boy any closer to his mother, but rather deepened his sense of isolation. He went to a local grammar school and from there into the Navy, where he served for two years, 1945-47. Among his postings was Hong Kong, and it was in the grim Victorian naval barracks *HMS Tamar* in the Wanchai district of the crown colony that he first began writing poetry.

This impulse sprang, he was later to say, from "sweat, boredom and sexual frustration, the deepest of his war wounds". He read *The Penguin Book of Modern Verse* and was alienated by what he saw as the elitist tone of its contents. Only T. S. Eliot's *Rhapsody on a Windy Night*, with its commonplace street smells, evoked any response in him. It encouraged him to think that his "ordinary" experiences as a street-bred Londoner could become the basis for poetry. Yet for a long time he felt that his verse was too autobiographical, too much the expression of direct, unvarnished experience to be classed as poetry.

After National Service, he worked on a trade paper for five years before joining the police. He now wrote verse constantly, and had some luck placing his writings in *Poetry Quarterly*. It was in the police that he found what he always felt to be his true voice. On the best one day, thoughts about his father's death came flooding into his mind. He retired to the nearest phone

box and jotted down a first draft of what became *When My Father Died*.

Brock's first volume of verse, *An Attempt at Exorcism*, was published towards the end of 1959, and Alan Pryce-Jones's reviewer, while recognising its potential, described it as the work of an Alan Sillitoe delivered in the manner of Dylan Thomas.

Brock later left the police and became an advertising copywriter. As a poet he tended to disparage advertising — his friends Peter Porter and Edward Lucie-Smith also worked in the trade — but he was successful, and worked for J. Walter Thompson, S. H. Benson (directing its creative group from 1964 to 1972) and Ogilvy, Benson & Mather.

In the meantime he continued publishing verse, and he featured in *Penguin Modern Poets* 8 along with Geoffrey Hill and Stevie Smith. He was rare among English poets in being alive to transatlantic influences, and was enthusiastically received in America. Several of his volumes were published by New Directions in New York, including *The Poems and the Poetics* (1973), *Paradox: A Guide to the ISMS* (1974) and *The River and the Train* (1979).

Five Ways to Kill a Man: New and Selected Poems (1987) was a collection of his characteristic strengths (and weaknesses) when it was published in 1990. His single novel, *The Little White God* (1962), was based on his experience in the police force, and he wrote an autobiography, *Here, Now, Always*, in 1977. He was poetry editor of *Ambit* from 1960.

Brock's first marriage, so unsparingly described in *With Love From Judas*, was dissolved in 1964, the year he married his second wife Elizabeth. He is survived by her and their daughter, and by the son and daughter of his first marriage.

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LAWN TENNIS

BRITAIN'S ADDED PRESTIGE

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

There is no time of the year when the game of lawn tennis is not played. It is an eternal season, for when play on grass is impossible then there is a procession to the hard courts. When summer fades out and even autumn, then there is an approach to the sunny lands where the sun never ceases to shine and in the lands beyond the equator where summer is our winter. And at home there are the covered courts and artificial lights.

Yet it is possible now, at the close of the last of the big American championships at Los Angeles to take stock of the doings of the various players in the summer that has now at last passed for the northern part of the globe. For the second year in succession the championship in the Singles there has been won by an English player, F. J. Perry, and it is a strange coincidence that in the last seven years the winner of that championship has invariably won in the following year the championship of America. That was the achievement this year of Perry, and those who go by such auguries may look forward to a second victory by him next summer at Forest Hills. Perry's play has been one of the most

ON THIS DAY

September 26, 1933

FRED PERRY WAS THE LAST BRITISH PLAYER TO WIN THE AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP (1933 AND 1934) AND BRITAIN WON THE DAVIS CUP FROM 1933 TO 1936. THE CAMPAIGN FOR OPEN TOURNAMENTS CONTINUED FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS; THE FIRST OPEN WAS NOT HELD AT WIMBLEDON UNTIL 1968.

distinguished features of the lawn tennis of the summer that is just over. He is one of those who seem to play better in every other country than his own, and for that reason he deserves a special word of praise.

After an interval of 21 years the Davis Cup, which is the emblem of supremacy of the nations of the world at the games, has returned to Great Britain. No one at the beginning of the year would have been so confident as to prophesy such a result, for our players had been tried in past years and found wanting. Yet it was just by persistence, with the same players in the main, that the trophy

was won once more. That should be borne in mind by those who are perpetually out for changes. We have won by keeping on trying and giving the same men as before the chance to earn the laurels. They have done well, and every credit is due to Perry, Austin, and Hughes, as well as the spare man, Lee, for the way in which they won through from the first round to the very last and put their country in the front rank of the lawn tennis nations of the world. It should not be forgotten that no game is so universally played. Nearly 40 nations compete for the Davis Cup, and Great Britain at the present moment stands supreme.

Once more there has been an outcry for open tournaments in which amateurs and professionals may take part. The time is hardly ripe for that for the number of professional players who could compete on an equality with the leading amateurs is small. Moreover, the movement towards professionalism is one that has not yet gained significance. Hitherto it has only won over those who wish to be coaches at the game and others who, when their playing days as amateurs are almost over, are tempted by glittering financial offers

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26 1997

RM

NatWest predicts 7,000 FTSE in the millennium

By JASON NISSE AND
ALASDAIR MURRAY

NATWEST MARKETS, the broker, yesterday predicted that the London market would continue to soar into the next millennium, with the FTSE 100 index hitting 7,000 before the end of 2000, a 38 per cent rise.

Bob Semple, the broker's equity strategist, told an audience of investors that the market would continue to grow on the back of a strong economy and a continued shortage of

new share issues in the London market. NatWest is expecting the market to fall slightly this year, from 5,065 yesterday to 4,800. However, this is a less dramatic fall than NatWest had previously forecast and the broker has raised its 12-month prediction for the market from 5,200 to 5,600.

Mr Semple said that London was undervalued when compared with other major markets and so was well equipped to withstand any possible market correction in the US. The average price earnings ratio for UK stocks is 17.9, compared with 22.9 in the

US, 26.9 in Germany and 60 in Japan. In line with many commentators, Mr Semple expects interest rates to peak next year at little higher than today's levels, before falling back to about 6 per cent by 2000.

NatWest predicts that the growth will be led by the financial sector — the strongest performer in the FTSE this year — but also said that industry was dealing with the strong pound better than many had feared. Yesterday the latest trade data provided further evidence that exports are still holding up well, in spite of the strength of

the pound. The global trade deficit for July declined from £950 million in June to £450 million, the lowest level since March 1995.

Export volume growth again outpaced import growth, with export volumes rising 3.5 per cent in the three months to July, while imports jumped 2 per cent. But the non-EU deficit for August showed the deficit widening from £62 million to £359 million.

Economists cautioned that the June data had been flattered by the inclusion of a one-off £400 million oil rig sale to Norway.

Dharshini David, UK economist at HSBC Markets, gave warning of some signs of manufacturers struggling to cut export prices to maintain volumes that could result in the deficit widening in coming months.

The better than expected data revived rate rise speculation in the currency markets. The pound climbed more than a cent to reach a seven-week high of \$1.6263 and recovered two pennings to DM2.8750 after falling sharply on Wednesday.

Comment, page 29

Unions to seek £4.61 minimum wage

By PHILIP BASSETT AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

TRADE unions yesterday seized on new official earnings figures to press the Government for a national minimum wage of £4.61 an hour. This is at least a pound higher than many leading companies say they can bear.

The New Earnings Survey published yesterday showed that half male median earnings — the figure unions, including the Union, public service giant, are lobbying to have used — rose from £4.42 to £4.61 an hour.

This demand was met with shock by leading industrialists. The finance director of a service sector company that employs about 80,000 people said: "About £3 to £3.50 would fulfil the social purpose of a minimum wage but anything above that could prove a large burden to companies' costs and would meet with substantial opposition."

A spokesman for the John Lewis Partnership, the retail

The new figures emerged as Conservatives attacked the Government for what they said was a significant dilution of its plans for a minimum wage after *The Times* disclosed that people up to the age of 25 might be exempted from it. John Redwood, Shadow Industry Secretary, accused Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, of having "driven a coach and horses through her own Government's minimum wage promise", adding: "We will be pressing her for more exemptions now that she has agreed that the original idea cannot work."

The Government also signalled that it is likely to channel more of the £35 billion it is raising from the utilities windfall tax into helping the long-term unemployed. When Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, set up the Welfare to Work programme in July's Budget, it was envisaged that 90 per cent would go to help young out of work people with only 10 per cent for older people unemployed for more than two years.

However, Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, told the Commons Select Committee on Employment yesterday that if the figures for young unemployed continue to fall as sharply as they have over recent months, Labour would change the emphasis of Welfare to Work to help the long-term unemployed.

The Government's New Earnings Survey showed average earnings at £367.60 per week. The 4.6 per cent rise on last year's NES figure is in line with the rise of 4.2 per cent over the same period in the Government's normal monthly average earnings series, but is well ahead of the rise in inflation of 2.4 per cent.

Average earnings for men are now £408.70, up by 4.4 per cent, and £297.20 for women, up 5.1 per cent. But the gender gap on pay remains, with women's earnings still only 73 per cent of those for men.

Nineteen directors were given golden handshakes of £500,000 or more in the past 12 months and 103 received payoffs of more than £100,000, according to figures collated by Labour Research. Two directors — Charles Mackay of Incheape and George Greener of BAT Industries — picked up more than £1 million. However, the average payoff slipped for the fourth year running to £327,771.

chain, said: "The minimum wage is really all about the level. If it is set too high then we will have to employ fewer people." John Lewis's lowest paid shop assistants receive £4.28 an hour.

At Bass, employees start work for £3.10 per hour although a spokesman said pay increased with training and experience. He declined to comment on Unison's proposal before the company's talks with the Low Pay Commission.



Bass has already indicated an interest in buying Carlsberg-Tetley's Burton brewery which will otherwise close by April 1999 with the loss of 55 jobs

Carlsberg-Tetley sheds 1,500 staff

By DOMINIC WALSH

THREE of Carlsberg-Tetley's five breweries are to be closed or sold and 1,500 jobs are to go. The move comes three months after Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, blocked the sale of the brewer to Bass.

Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries added to the gloom as it admitted that trading had suffered from poor weather in

June and July and that profits in the second half of the year were below budget.

The two announcements, coming just a day after a profit warning from Greenall's, sent shares tumbling across the sector, with W&D shedding 37p to end the day at 520p.

Ebbe Dinesen, chief executive of Carlsberg-Tetley, said the group had been left with

no alternative but to rationalise the business after Mrs Beckett's decision. He made little attempt to hide his anger, saying: "There is no doubt we would have saved some of these jobs if the sale had been allowed to go through." The Department of Trade of industry rejected his claim.

Carlsberg-Tetley, controlled by Carlsberg of Denmark, is to

focus its operations on its breweries in Northampton and Leeds, and plans to invest £40 million to boost efficiency and extend capacity.

Bass immediately indicated an interest in buying Carlsberg-Tetley's Burton brewery, falling which the site will close by April 1999 with the loss of 55 jobs. Its Alcoa brewery will close by next May and its

Wrexham site will stop production by October 1999, with the combined loss of 120 jobs.

The other job cuts will come from a streamlining of the distribution, sales and marketing and head office operations. The workforces will fall from 3,700 to 2,200 over two years.

Stock market, page 30
Brewing trouble, page 31

Sears brings BSC to an end with 850 job losses

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SEARS sounded the death knell for the once mighty British Shoe Corporation yesterday as it announced plans to sell or close all of its shoe shops, leading to up to 850 redundancies.

The retail group is setting aside £150 million to leave the shoe business. As recently as three years ago, BSC was responsible for one in six pairs of shoes sold in Britain.

Sears is to close 150 Shoe Express outlets, with the loss of 550 jobs. Information memorandums on Dolcis, Cable & Co. Shoe City and the other 185 branches of Shoe Express will be sent out to potential purchasers in the next few days.

The group hopes to sell about half of its 126 remaining department store concessions, but is likely to close the rest next January, with a further 300 redundancies.

Sir Bob Reid, chairman, said there have been up to 85 expressions of interest. In the six months to July 31, the group recorded a pre-tax loss of £98.9 million (£2.5 million profit) because of an £80 million provision to cover the shoe closures — a further £70 million will be charged in the second half — and £21.5 million for selling the Freeman's catalogue business, demerging Selfridges and paying advisers.

Sir Bob, who intends to stay with the group until 1999, expects to hear whether the Department of Trade will allow the sale of Freeman's to Littlewoods by the end of November. If not, he proposes to float it in 12 to 18 months.

The demerging of Selfridges is on track for next year, Sears said. Current like-for-like sales at the Miss Selfridge, Wallis, Richards and Warehouse women's wear chains, which will remain within the Sears group, are up just 1.4 per cent.

The company is maintaining the interim dividend at 1.05p, due on December 5.

Commentary, page 29

Spanish alliance boosts Pearson

By ERIC REGULY

PEARSON has agreed a wide-ranging deal yesterday with Telefonía, Spain's biggest telecommunications group, which gives it free access to the vast Latin American market.

Telefonía will pay £92.4 million for a 20 per cent stake in Recoletos, the Spanish publisher that is 94 per cent owned by Pearson. Recoletos is best known as the publisher of *Marca*, Europe's top-selling sports newspaper, and *Expansion*, the financial daily.

The investment will dilute Pearson's stake in Recoletos to 76 per cent. Recoletos, in turn, will use £46 million of the

money it received from Telefonía to buy 10 per cent of Antena-3, one of Spain's leading commercial broadcasters. Pearson said the investment in Antena 3 will provide an outlet for its programme production businesses.

More importantly, Pearson's new association with Telefonía will present Marjorie Scardino, Pearson chief executive, with the opportunity to penetrate the Latin American market where Telefonía has extensive telecoms and cable businesses.

Tempus, page 30



Scardino: opportunities

Boosey & Hawkes loses 12% of value

By JON ASHWORTH

SHARES in Boosey & Hawkes lost 12 per cent of their value yesterday, on fresh doubts about the future of Britain's most famous music publisher and instrument maker.

Carl Fischer, the New York company that is seeking to sell its 43.5 per cent stake in Boosey & Hawkes, said preliminary expressions of interest had been "materially" below the current share price. It remained in discussions with interested parties.

The shares, which peaked at £10.625 in August, fell 112p to 837.5p. Under City rules, anyone buying the Fischer

stake must make a public offer for the whole company.

Representatives of leading composers, including Britten, Elgar and Holst, are concerned an unwelcome takeover could cause "irreparable damage" to Britain's musical heritage. In a letter to *The Times* in July, they argued loss of the company's independence threatened far-reaching consequences for serious and educational music.

Founded in the 1760s, Boosey & Hawkes is the world's leading publisher of 20th-century classical music. Its interim results are due next week.

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Minister seeks educational TV channels

By RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

CHRIS SMITH, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, is exploring ways of launching new television channels devoted to learning both for industry and schools and colleges.

Mr Smith made it clear yesterday that he was determined to ensure that the vast expansion of television channels expected in the UK next

year through the launch of digital systems should not be entirely devoted to entertainment. In a year's time, if all goes according to plan, viewers will be able to key into 200-channel cable and satellite television systems. There are also scheduled to be at least 40 channels on digital terrestrial systems, which can be viewed without either a satellite dish or cable connection.

"I do want to ensure that we can use the expansion of broadcasting through the develop-

ment of digital television to provide more educational programming," Mr Smith says. He would like to see an educational channel, or even channels, created although he concedes that issues of funding are still uncertain. "I have opened up the discussion in Government," said Mr Smith, who added that he is particularly keen on adding television coverage to the planned University for Industry.

Previous attempts to use television to improve the skills of the British workforce have

had mixed results at best. The Open College started off with broadcasts on Channel 4 but they were deemed too expensive. The Open College has survived but as a mail order supplier of educational course material.

In the early 1990s the Conservative Government missed an opportunity to use the old satellites of British Satellite Broadcasting to launch an educational channel. Instead the satellites were sold at a knockdown price to Scandinavian broadcasters.

Camelot concedes defeat

Camelot has finally conceded defeat in its battle to block 49's, a rival numbers game run by bookmakers, but said it will call on Parliament to help to sort out the confusion over what constitutes a lottery.

The National Lottery operator has spent eight months trying to stop 49's, run by William Hill, Ladbrokes and Coral, in which a lottery-style draw is screened in betting shops after the day's racing. The game is forecast to generate sales of £250 million a year.

Camelot is worried that competition from 49's and other games will erode its business, reducing the amounts raised for good causes. After failing in a bid to have 49's declared illegal by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Camelot went to the High Court seeking a judicial review. It later mounted an unsuccessful private prosecution, leaving it facing an estimated £650,000 in costs. It was considering an appeal.

MFI ahead

Sales have picked up at MFI, the furniture retailer. In the first 21 weeks of this financial year, group sales were 8 per cent higher. This compares with 5 per cent growth in the first 9 weeks alone. UK sales were up 9 per cent, while French turnover fell 2 per cent. Derek Hunt, chairman, said the figures were particularly gratifying in view of the highly competitive market and strong comparative figures last year.

Bid agreed

Interoute Telecommunications, the AIM-listed company, yesterday agreed to a £24.7 million — 74p a share — bid from Shaker, part of European Telecom Investments.



Rodney Galpin, left, Alpha Airports chairman, and Stuart Siddall, said a duty-free ban would hit retail operations

Alpha steps up duty-free campaign

ALPHA AIRPORTS, the aviation support services group, is to step up its campaign against a ban on duty-free sales in the European Union (Chris Ayres writes).

The company said a ban on sales would hit its retail operations severely, push up travel fares and put up to 140,000 jobs at risk.

Stuart Siddall, finance director, said: "If the ban goes ahead, liquor and tobacco sales will die completely at airports because there will be no price advantage at all to the high street."

On Wednesday the European Commission ruled out the possibility of going back on its decision to abolish duty-free sales.

Yesterday Alpha reported a 40 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £14 million for the six months to July 31. Earnings rose 16.5 per cent to 5.53p a share, and an interim dividend of 1.75p (184p) will be paid on October 10.

Tempus, page 30

Laura Ashley passes payout on warning of full-year loss

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LAURA ASHLEY'S woes deepened yesterday as the retail group issued its third profit warning in five months and said it was launching a review that could lead to wide-ranging cost cuts. It also passed payment of the interim dividend.

Ann Iverson, its American chief executive, said trading, particularly in home furnishings, had deteriorated since the last profit warning a month ago and that the group will therefore make a full-year

loss. Analysts, who a few months ago were looking for a £25 million pre-tax profit, are now expecting a £7.5 million loss. In the first half, it made a loss of £4.5 million against a pre-tax profit of £5.2 million a year ago.

Ms Iverson said that current trading in home furnishings is down 18 per cent, like-for-like, while garment sales, greatly aided by summer discounting, are up 7 per cent like-for-like.

The review of costs is being led by David Hoare, who was appointed chief operating officer last week. He will manage the company on a day-to-day basis. Analysts said his appointment, which is believed to be the work of John Thornton, the chairman, sidelines Ms Iverson, who has been mainly blamed for Laura Ashley's over-ambitious expansion.

The group announced the disposal of two Welsh factories last month, and Mr Hoare is expected to take a close look at the effectiveness of the remaining factories.

Ms Iverson said that the current emphasis was on improving the supply chain, particularly in furnishings where customers are expected to wait up to four months for delivery. She also said that she is determined to remain with the group and that no potential buyers had made approaches.

The enthusiasm of George Mosbacher, the American businessman who attempted to buy the company two years ago and who has expressed an interest since, appears to be dimming.

She said yesterday that she still likes the company, but has been worried by its recent performance. "I don't know how serious the erosion is," she said. She will not make any move unless she is contacted by the group's board. "They [the board] know of my interest. This company cannot be bought without the company inviting someone in."

Her last bid was spurned by Sir Bernard Ashley, co-founder and largest single shareholder. Laura Ashley's shares fell 10 per cent at 59½p.

Commentary, page 29

ITV drops Broadcast Board to become more streamlined

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE ITV system has quietly dumped its Broadcast Board in a clear sign that it is determined to have a more streamlined structure and become, in effect, ITV plc.

The Broadcast Board, most recently chaired by Roger Laughton of United News & Media, was set up as the final authority in ITV, overseeing the work of the Network Centre which is responsible for commissioning more than £600 million a year in pro-

grammes for national transmission. Recently Richard Eyre, the former chief executive of Capital Radio, was appointed chief executive of ITV and David Liddiment has subsequently become network director.

As a result, Mr Laughton has decided that there is no obvious role for the Broadcast Board and no further meetings have been scheduled. It is still unclear whether, under the 1990 Broadcasting Act,

some residual body may still be legally necessary.

What is clear is that ITV, dominated by three major players — Carlton Communications, Granada and United — wants to ensure that it is commissioned as a single channel and move away from the old days when it was a federation of competing interests. There is a clear understanding that it has to behave more like a consortium to claw back audiences lost to the BBC and satellite television.

Thai rally bolstered by reforms

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THAI financial markets jumped sharply again yesterday as optimism grows that the country is beginning to solve its political and economic problems.

The Thai stock market climbed 3.7 per cent, closing up 20.34 points at 567.36. It was the sixth consecutive daily rise in a rally that has seen the market climb about 8.5 per cent this week.

The Thai currency, the baht, also rose slightly to reach 35 to the dollar — consolidating a 5 per cent gain across the week.

Thai markets have been bolstered by the International Monetary Fund's increasingly vocal support for the country's reform plans. IMF officials, speaking at the close of the fund's annual meeting in Hong Kong yesterday, again expressed confidence that its \$17 billion rescue package would bring positive results.

Investors have been tempted back to the market by indications that the Thai Government will weather a no-confidence debate in parliament and a new draft constitution will win approval.

Britannia insists loss will not hit loyalty bonuses

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

BRITANNIA Building Society insisted yesterday that payments to members under its new loyalty scheme would not be affected by a £14 million provision for losses in its Britannia Life subsidiary.

The provision, caused by the removal of advance corporation tax relief for pension funds in the Budget, took its toll of the society's half-year profits.

Despite strong growth in Britannia's core business of savings and mortgages, pre-tax profits slipped back from £57.3 million for the six months to June last year to £48.8 million for the same period this year. Britannia Life recorded a profit of £10.3 million in the same period last year.

Trevor Bayley, group finance director, said: "There is no threat to our members' loyalty bonus scheme and we see no reason why we would be unable to match the £37 million we paid out to members in 1996. It will have no impact on holders of life policies."

Mr Bayley said that Britannia Life was not for sale and that the board was not currently in talks with any potential buyers.

The review that uncovered the losses at the life subsidiary began earlier this year and will be completed by December. The provision is to cover a shortfall between actuarial calculations made in the past and new calculations of future profits.

The core building society business lifted pre-tax profits 30 per cent to £56.8 million. Bad and doubtful debts were reduced to £1.6 million from £7.1 million.

Britannia said that an estimated 25,000 carpenters opened accounts in the past 12 months, taking the number of members to 1.5 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Steel firms welcome ruling on state aid

THE UK steel industry yesterday claimed a victory in its campaign against state aid after cash help for a Luxembourg steel producer was declared illegal. The move, by the European Court of First Instance against the European Commission, comes as British Steel pursues three actions over state aid to steelmakers. State aid for the coal and steel industry is illegal in Europe but can be allowed for specific purposes such as environmental improvements. The ruling said that a planned subsidy for Arbed, the Luxembourg manufacturer, was illegal because it was intended for environmental equipment on new rather than existing machinery.

Ian Rodgers, director of policy at the UK Steel Association, said: "For the past five years the UK Steel Association has been waging a battle against the proliferation of illegal state aid in several European countries. State aid distorts competition and undermines the competitiveness of those countries that stick by the rules." British Steel's actions centre on Ilva, an Italian company; the Spanish company CSI and Irish Steel.

Travel tax concession

THE Inland Revenue has made a concession to employees who take regular business trips. Dawn Primarolo, Treasury Financial Secretary, announced yesterday that full tax relief will now be given to those who need to travel to temporary places of work, whether they start from home or the office. Formerly the taxpayer had insisted that they deduct the cost of so-called ordinary commuting, their usual trip to work, from any claim.

Transco restructures

TRANSCO, BG's pipeline network, is overhauling its structure as it embarks on its massive cost-reduction programme which includes the loss of 2,500 jobs. By next spring, Transco will condense its 32 district operations into 12 distribution zones. The move will separate out Transco's high-pressure network, putting that under the control of one director. Another director will be given full responsibility for safety and service standards.

Insurers study weather

A £1 MILLION project to study unpredictable and potentially catastrophic weather events was launched in London yesterday with the backing of the insurance industry and the Government. Eight insurers and brokers, including Royal Sun Alliance, Commercial Union and Sedgwick, have joined the Department of Trade & Industry to fund the Tsunami initiative, named after the Japanese tidal wave. The insurers will match the DTI's £480,000 grant over three years.

Antofagasta advances

ANTOFAGASTA, the diversified industrial group with interests in Chile, raised pre-tax profits from £27 million to £28.6 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings per share rose from 11.9p to 13.4p and the interim dividend rises from 2.0p to 2.25p. The shares rose 5p to 40½p. The company said lower copper prices were partly offset by very good results from its railway interests but appreciation of the pound against the dollar cut reported profits by 6.1 per cent.

Byatt urges rethink

IAN BYATT, the water industry regulator, yesterday called on the Government to set customer protection as his priority rather than the financial order of water companies. In a submission to the Department of Trade and Industry's review of regulation, Mr Byatt also sets out a greater role for parliamentary scrutiny of the regulatory process through the establishment of a select committee devoted to monitoring the industry, although he opposes a commission of regulators.

Celsis in US deal

CELSIS INTERNATIONAL, the hygiene testing company chaired by Jack Rowell, the former England rugby coach, is claiming a breakthrough after securing a distribution deal with Becton Dickinson, the US medical devices group. Becton Dickinson Microbiology Systems is a leading supplier of agar jelly plates used to test for microbes — an entrenched but much slower method than Celsis's systemSURE device. Celsis said the Becton Dickinson deal is worth \$10 million (£6.2 million).

Hewden-Stuart ahead

HEWDEEN-STUART, the building and construction group, raised pre-tax profits by 28 per cent to £18.9 million in the six months to July 31 on sales up from £141.8 million to £148.5 million. Earnings rose from 3.56p a share to 4.9p. The interim dividend rises from 0.8p to 1p a share, although directors point out they are trying over the next three years to reduce the disparity between half-year and full-year payouts. Last year's total payout was 3.2p. The shares rose 3p to 174½p.

HR Owen pulls ahead

HR OWEN, the luxury car dealer, more than doubled pre-tax profits in the six months to June 30, from £1 million to £2.2 million. Sales of marques such as BMW, Mercedes, Porsche and Ferrari rose to £188 million (£170 million). Earnings rose to 0.85p (0.48p). An interim dividend of 0.4p (0.33p) will be paid on October 10. Owen is shedding its Peugeot and Nissan dealerships, and developing its up-market operations. The company said August had been a record month.

Acquisition for Alvis

ALVIS, the UK defence equipment manufacturer, has agreed to acquire Hägglunds Vehicle, a Scandinavian manufacturer of armoured vehicles, for a maximum consideration of almost £80 million. Hägglunds has a current order book of £369 million and earned pre-tax profits of £11.7 million on turnover of £103.6 million in 1996. Alvis will part-fund the acquisition via a rights issue of units in Alvis Funding, a subsidiary. Alvis shares rose 7½p to 141p yesterday.

Extortion inquiry reaches last of big Tokyo brokers

Securities team raids Nikko

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT
IN TOKYO

SQUADS of prosecutors and securities watchdog officials raided the head office of Nikko Securities and the homes of its top executives yesterday as the Tokyo extortion scandal engulfed the last of Japan's big four brokers.

Prosecutors suspect Nikko made illicit payments totalling about 14 million yen (£73,600) to Ryuzichi Koike, the *sokaiya* or corporate racketeer at the centre of a scandal that now involves all of the nation's leading securities houses.

Investigators searched the homes of Takuya Iwasaki, Nikko's chairman, and Kichiro Takao, the president, amid news

reports that both men intend to resign soon, along with other top executives.

The Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission searched for evidence that Nikko was pressured by Mr Koike into making payoffs in 1995 to compensate for losses incurred in stock trading. The money was alleged to have been intended to buy Mr Koike's silence after he threatened to disclose compromising information at a shareholders' meeting.

The *sokaiya* specialise in extorting money from companies by becoming shareholders and threatening to reveal corporate malpractices at shareholders' meetings. Such payoffs violate Japan's commercial code, while the securities and exchange law bans reimbursement

of stock trading losses. All four big brokerages were approached by Mr Koike, who bought 300,000 shares in each, and all paid up to avoid embarrassment. Mr Koike is under arrest for allegedly demanding money from Nomura Securities, Japan's biggest brokerage, and Yamaichi. He is also suspected of taking payoffs from Daiwa, the second largest broker.

The investigation has revealed that Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, the leading commercial bank, also yielded to pressure and made illicit payments.

The scandal has damaged the reputation of Japan's financial industry as it struggles to reform itself in the run-up to deregulation.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.25	2.17
Austria Sch	21.24	19.58
Belgium Fr	62.65	57.23
Canada \$	2.380	2.152
Cyprus Cyp	0.289	0.282
Denmark Kr	11.54	10.83
Finland Mk	9.15	8.40
France Fr	10.13	9.26
Germany Dr	3.04	2.83
Greece Dr	480	441
Hong Kong \$	13.42	12.22
Italy Lit	128	107
Ireland P	1.16	1.07
Israel Sh	6.01	5.38
Japan Yen	2085	2745
Malta	0.670	0.611
Netherlands Gld	3.430	3.135
New Zealand \$	2.69	2.43
Norway Kr	12.23	11.29
Portugal Esc	305.03	283.00
S Africa Rd	254.22	235.50
Spain Ptas	13.07	11.97
Sweden Kr	2.026	1.891
Switzerland Fr	200.26	270.48
Turkey Lira	1.794	1.591

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Sears, you will be delighted to know, "has continued to make progress on the strategic initiatives announced in April of this year".

Well, that is the way the company sees it. Anyone other than the ex-railwayman and his incompetent colleagues who are responsible for running the business might be inclined towards a different conclusion. To the unbiased eye, the latest news from Sears is dire on almost every front.

Not only is the company writing off about £150 million as the cost of pulling out of its shoe businesses but it is also seeing trading profits in every one of its divisions, at best, falling to record any growth and, at worst, tumbling.

Given that the high street has been supposed to be enjoying something of a boom of late, it is hard to see quite how Sears can divine any progress in this performance.

At least across the road at Laura Ashley, the company was prepared to admit that all is not going according to plan. But the fact that it will not now manage to scramble into the black this year is due to the fact that "We moved ahead too fast, too soon..." After all this time, it might be expected that the company ought to have learnt how to walk, and should be ready to run, but the problems went beyond mere enthusiasm. In fact, just about everything was wrong, from systems to garment buying, stock replenishment, supply chain and

Two cases of foot-in-mouth disease



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

pressure for a little renegotiation over the price.

Yesterday Sears indicated that if the President of the Board of Trade blocks the sale on monopolies grounds, then the business will be floated separately. Sir Bob Reid may believe that he could find the flannel to fill the prospectus, and on the basis of the guff he handed out yesterday, he probably could. But investors are surely not so dim as to swallow it.

Economy still confounds bears

When a well-respected analyst opines that the FTSE will top 7,000 by the turn of the century, it is tempting to enjoy the sense of optimism, even if his views are delivered as part of a marketing effort by NatWest.

But while Bob Semple appears to be encouraging clients to pile in

to the stock market, there is ample reason to be practise a little self-restraint. Elsewhere in the City there is an overriding view that the markets, both here and on Wall Street, are looking topky. Indeed, to some eyes, they have been looking overvalued for many months and at considerably lower levels.

At PDM, Tony Dye and his team were among the first to come to the view that shares were overvalued, and to cut their exposure to equities. Their reasoning has not changed, although in the intervening months they have seen other houses reap the benefits of sticking with the stock market. Now their stance obliges PDM to maintain that the crash will come, and that when it does it will be so drastic as to more than vindicate their early commitment to bearishness.

But while the PDM stance is extreme, the consensus is that a reaction is overdue, with a fall of between 10 and 15 per cent being

widely predicted. The majority of investors may be inclined to wait for that to take place before moving in to enjoy the ride that Mr Semple is predicting.

Yet there is little in the current economic picture to presage the widely expected fall. The latest economic news continues to paint an encouraging picture of sound, steady growth. The July trade figures were so good, that even the City optimists were somewhat taken aback. Despite the strength of the pound, exporters appear to be continuing to find customers. Although the month by month figures can be erratic, the three month trend underlines the happy picture.

While some mouthpieces of the export industry cannot resist the knee-jerk reaction that a strong pound will cripple overseas sales, the evidence is that the increased sophistication of most British exports does allow some flexibility on pricing.

The pound charged further

ahead on the currency markets yesterday, and it seems destined to remain relatively high. The British economy is in good shape. The legacy of the last Government but one that the current regime seems loath to destroy. The consequence will continue to be strong sterling, but our better businesses should find that a price worth paying.

Greener talks sense

Tony Greener, the Guinness chairman, has claimed up on the subject of Bernard Arnault. When he unveiled the latest Guinness trading figures earlier this week, he declared that all negotiations with the volatile Frenchman were now to be conducted in private rather than through the columns of the press.

This is frustrating for journalists and analysts but probably good sense. And it will almost certainly incense M Arnault, who does like to be noticed. It might even persuade him to produce his new ideas for how he would like to see the planned Guinness/Grand Metropolitan merger restructured to the bene-

fit of his LVMH. Mr Greener and George Bull, his counterpart at GrandMet, are still waiting to see the proposals.

Both companies give every indication of being sanguine about M Arnault's ability to scupper their deal, despite his threats of using the French courts to tear apart the distribution contracts that he has with Guinness. It can be assumed that they have paid their lawyers for advice to back up that sanguinity, just as M Arnault has paid his.

Of course, the Frenchman has invested heavily in acquiring 11 per cent each of the two companies. But what influence does that level of share holding bring him? There is no doubt that CMG, when it finally bursts upon the corporate scene, would benefit from being linked more closely with Moët Hennessy, but on their terms, not M Arnault's.

Fast forward

ON WEDNESDAY, this column suggested that the top team at Pearson was doing more than twiddle its thumbs. Yesterday's announcement of a deal with Spain's largest company, Telefonica, is evidence of that. It is a nifty arrangement that catapults Pearson straight into the heart of the Latin American television market and should prove enough to keep Pearson's prowling TV boss, Greg Dyke, occupied for a while.

German woe takes toll of Redland

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than £312 million was wiped from the value of Redland as the market took fright at a warning over continuing problems in Germany where 550 jobs are to be axed.

Redland's fresh concern over its German operations took the market by surprise and the share price fell 61p to a new low of 220p. The company said that turnover in Germany had fallen 16 per cent in July and August and was likely to continue into next year. It is expected to take a charge of £450 million (£17 million) in the second half for the first round of restructuring costs which will involve plant closures.

The roofing and aggregates business delivered its blow while reporting a collapse in half-year pre-tax profits from £95.5 million to £34.5 million although the bulk of the fall came from the company's loss on a series of disposals. In the six months to June 30 it ran up losses of £36.2 million from selling businesses.

Further damage came from the strength of sterling, Redland said. It said that without the

losses from disposals and with a constant exchange rate its pre-tax profits would have been little changed year on year. Last year, however, Redland suffered poor trade because of harsh weather in continental Europe.

Robert Napier, chief executive, said the extent of the problems in the German market — which delivers far more than a quarter of Redland's turnover — had not been expected. "It took us by surprise and it certainly took the market by surprise," Mr Napier blamed the high cost of reunification which was hitting the new housing market.

Simon Brown, construction analyst at Williams de Broë, said: "We had been promised jam tomorrow in Redland's German operation but now it looks as though it is going to be jam in three weeks' time."

Redland aims to cut 10 per cent off the cost base in Germany. The dividend, due on December 15, is held at 5.5p and will be paid as a foreign income dividend.

Tempus, page 30

Benfield to take over Greig Fester

By JASON NISSE

BENFIELD, the reinsurance group built up by the late Matthew Harding, is to take over its rival, Greig Fester, in a £120 million deal which will create the world's largest independent reinsurance broker.

John Goldman, who took over as chairman of Benfield when Mr Harding was killed in a helicopter crash last year, said the move will marry Benfield's entrepreneurial skills with Greig Fester's reputation for risk modelling, creating a firm with a turnover of more than £3 billion a year.

He said that there were no plans to float the company, which will be renamed Benfield Greig Group, despite speculation since Mr Harding's death that the company would come to market.

Benfield is paying £100 million in cash and £20 million in shares for Greig Fester. It will slightly dilute the 30 per cent holding of the Harding trust, which benefits Mr Harding's former wife and mistress as well as his children.

Mr Harding joined Benfield as an office junior in 1973 and built the reinsurer into a group valued at £400 million.

Avis Europe profits accelerate

By OUR CITY STAFF

AVIS EUROPE, the car-rental company that floated on the stock market in April, raised pre-tax profits by 33 per cent to £40.9 million in the six months to August 31 on sales down from £276 million to £267 million.

The company yesterday became the first British-listed stock to publish results in European currency units (ecu) which showed revenues up 13.6 per cent and earnings up by 66 per cent. Avis believes the ecu figures better represent its pan-European operations, ready for full-company accounts in ecu.

Alun Cathcart, chairman and chief executive, hopes further industry consolidation and economic growth will allow rental prices in Europe to increase moderately over four to five years.

He believes that as car makers quit the rental industry the independent hire companies will be able to achieve an economic return.

The shares rose 1p to 149p. Earnings rose 22 per cent to 5.62p out of which a 1.25p interim dividend will be paid.

Tempus, page 30

"If perfection on the palate exists, this is it."

Jim Murray's Complete Book of Whisky, 1997

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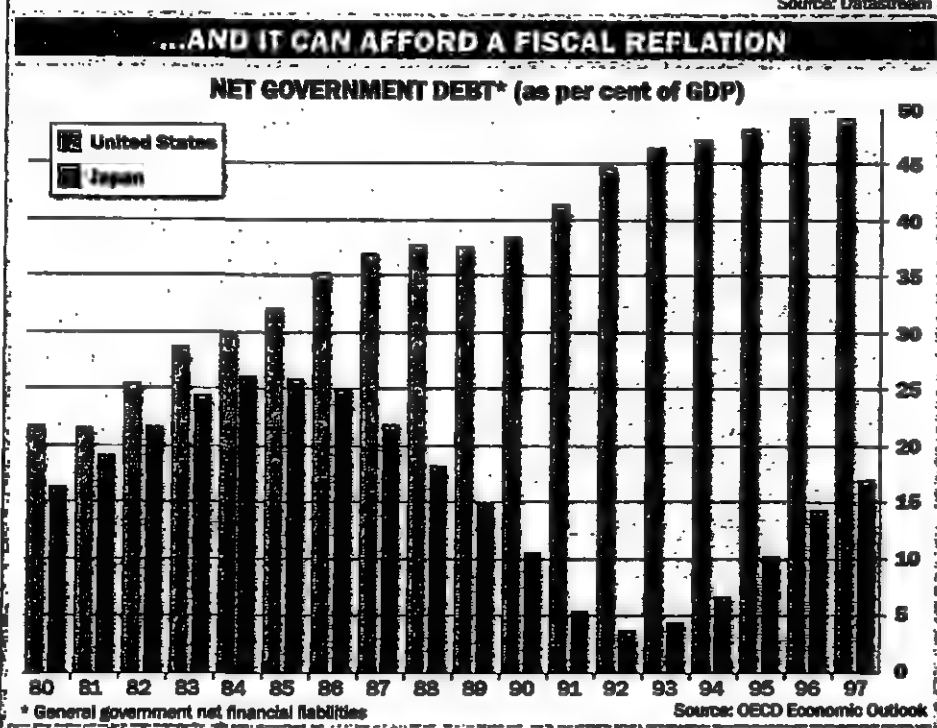
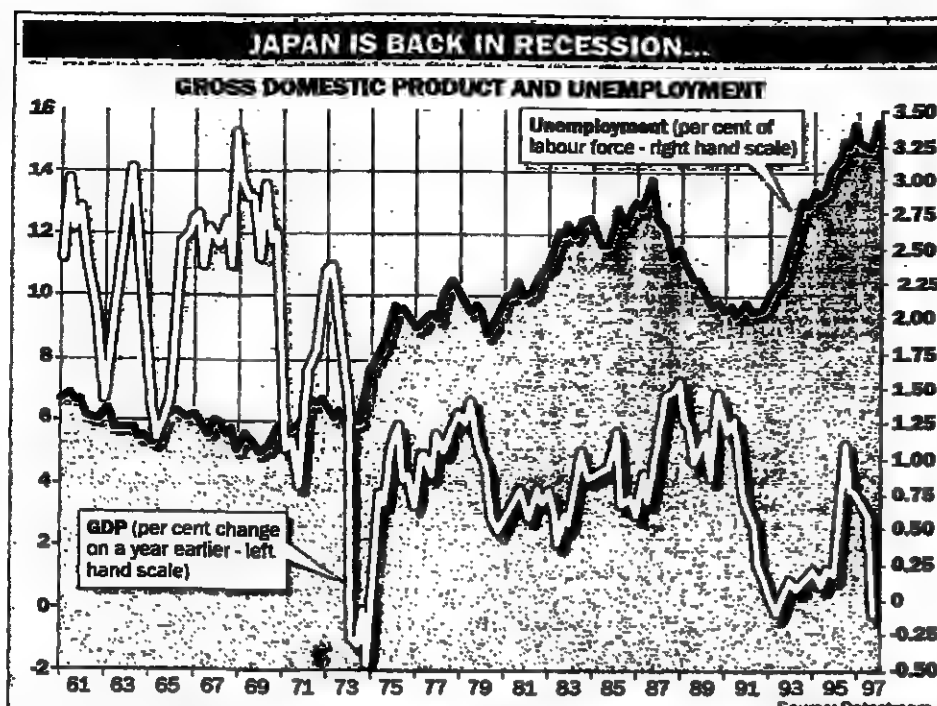
Tokyo's policy could distort competition in many industries and economies

Last weekend's meeting of the Group of Seven finance ministers and central bank governors, followed immediately by the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Hong Kong, seemed to come up with no conclusions of any significance to anyone.

The ministers failed, to their shame, to do anything about Gordon Brown's proposals on debt relief for the most impoverished developing nations — as eloquently explained by Janet Bush on this page on Tuesday. The G7 also failed, to their credit, to endorse Japan's plan to spend \$150 billion of G7 taxpayers' money to bail out corrupt South-East Asian governments and bankers. Most importantly, they failed to agree on any new measures to stabilise currencies, strengthen the international banking system, correct trade imbalances or co-ordinate global growth. For this last set of omissions the world should, on balance, be truly grateful. G7 initiatives have a long history, going back to the notorious "concerted action" of the late 1970s, of addressing the wrong problems at the wrong time with the wrong tools. And if ever there was a time when global macro-economic initiatives were not needed, it would seem to be today when most parts of the world economy are doing remarkably well.

There is, however, one economic issue of truly global significance that the G7 probably should have addressed in Hong Kong — and perhaps they even did in the discretion of their private meetings. This issue is the collapse of the Japanese economy. In some ways the worst economic upheaval to have hit a leading industrial country since the Second World War. Japan's economy, which grew at an average annual rate of 6.4 per cent from 1960 until 1991 and was at the top of every conceivable league table of economic performance, then suddenly became consistently the worst performer in the G7. In the six years since 1991 Japan has suffered an African-style average growth rate of 1.3 per cent.

Even this dismal average was only achieved because of a powerful burst of economic activity last year. This burst of strength was directly attributable to the most aggressively expansionary demand management policy ever undertaken by a modern government. The Bank of Japan's discount rate was reduced to 0.5 per cent and commercial bank rates were pushed below even this derisory level, the yen was devalued by a quarter and the Government simultaneously



increased its cyclically adjusted budget deficit by the equivalent of 2 per cent of GDP. This enormous triple stimulus resulted in a growth rate of 3.6 per cent last year and Japanese officials concluded in the autumn that the economy had finally turned the corner. It was then that they made their next disastrous mistake.

In April this year the Japanese Government imposed one of the biggest tax increases in the country's postwar history, reducing the structural public sector deficit by 1.3 per cent of GDP in a single year. The deflationary impact on the economy was exactly what any Keynesian model would have predicted — and indeed did predict. With interest rates already at zero, and no scope for any further easing of monetary policy to offset the impact of higher taxes. It was this formula of monetary easing combined with fiscal tightening that worked so well in Britain in 1981 and 1994, America in 1992-94 and Italy this year. In Japan, by contrast, there has been no monetary compensation for higher taxes and as a result the whole of the fiscal contraction fed straight into lower con-

sumption and investment. As a result, the economy has collapsed since April, with gross domestic product falling in the second quarter at an incredible annualised rate of 13 per cent. This is all very interesting, but what has it to do with the G7? The collapse of domestic activity and the sharp rise in the country's admittedly very low level of unemployment are matters for the Japanese themselves to sort out.

There are, however, two features of the Japanese economic meltdown that are of legitimate interest to the rest of the world — and particularly to the US. One is the possibility that a further weakening of the Japanese economy will trigger a financial crisis and possibly force Japanese investors to liquidate their enormous holdings of US Treasury bonds. The second — and more important — is that Japan's only hope of economic salvation, as long as the Government sticks to its present policies of fiscal retrenchment, will be to increase its penetration of world export markets and to cut back on its already

low imports from the rest of the world. Japan will continue to drain demand, and therefore jobs, from America and from European countries. Japanese companies with huge domestic investments financed at zero-interest rates in a stagnant home market will distort long-term competitive conditions in many key industries, ranging from motor vehicles and electronics to banking and entertainment. Intentional or not, this policy is certainly working. Japan's export volumes are now growing by more than 10 per cent annually, their fastest since 1985. Imports, which had been growing strongly in the past two years, are suddenly almost stagnant.

What makes this problem particularly susceptible to G7 action is that the solution is obvious to almost everyone outside Japan. In essence, Japan should reverse its premature fiscal retrenchment. It should cut taxes. It should then wait to restore its fiscal policy to balance after domestic demand in the economy is strong enough to withstand the depressing effect of a sharp reduction in the budget deficit. This is exactly what the

US has been doing since the early 1990s and what Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke did in Britain when they announced their post-dated tax increases after Black Wednesday from 1993 to 1995. By all accounts these points were being made forcefully even before the Japanese tax rise by the three key participants in G7 meetings: Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, Larry Summers, his deputy, and Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Why, then, have the Japanese refused to budge? Two obvious reasons are political pride and the remnants of mercantilist thinking. There is, however, a third, apparently more respectable reason. The Japanese claim that they must raise taxes and reduce budget deficits because their government debt is growing to alarming levels. Japan's gross public debt was 80 per cent of GDP at the end of 1996, according to OECD figures. This was much higher than America's 64 per cent and far above the Maastricht limit of 60 per cent adopted in Europe. Reducing the public debt burden, say the Japanese, is more urgent than short-term economic management, especially since the ageing of the population will impose far greater strains on public finance in the next century.

This argument has been widely accepted, both in Washington and in the financial markets. Yet it is dubious at best. Although the Japanese Government's total debts appear high by international standards, this is largely because of a quirk in the country's public accounting. A large part of the gross public debt is actually owned by the Government's own social security trust fund. Taking account of government bonds and other debts owed by one part of the Government to another, Japan's net public debt was only 14 per cent of GDP in 1996 — and has shrunk substantially since the 1980s, as the chart shows. Net debt is also much lower in Japan than it is in America or indeed in any other G7 country.

The Japanese claim that the immense assets of the social security system should not be counted as part of the Government's balance sheet, since they reflect responsibilities for future pensions. But the same could be said of the unfunded pensions liabilities of the American and every other government. More importantly, the Japanese attitude misconstrues the essential feature of pensions funding. The ability to pay future pensions will depend not on the paper assets theoretically held by the social security funds, but on the ability of the economy to produce the profits, wages and tax revenues in the future. The only way for the Japanese or any other government to ensure that there will be enough money to pay future pensions is to achieve adequate economic growth. If high taxes condemn Japan to stagnation and trade wars today, how will it pay its pensioners tomorrow?

Why Beckett was unable to stop brewing trouble

Martin Waller says that blocking a merger will not prevent consolidation

It will have to go down as one of history's unanswered what-ifs: did the decision by Margaret Beckett in June to block the purchase by Bass of Carlsberg-Tetley hasten yesterday's brewery closures?

The Transport and General Workers' Union, for one, seems split. While the local branch secretary at Wrexham was insisting that Bass had promised none of the breweries would close, his head office claimed that the news would have been much worse if the merger had gone ahead.

When the deal was still being scrutinised in March, recalled Brian Revell, the T&G's national secretary for the drinks industry, the union had said that some 2,000 jobs were under threat if it went through and 1,000 at risk if it was blocked.

The truth is that while Bass says it had hoped to keep the breweries open, perhaps with a smaller workforce, there was clear overlap between the two businesses' distribution networks, and this is where those job losses forecast by the union would have fallen.

Once the deal was blocked, the writing was on the wall. "The whole thing doesn't come as an enormous surprise," admits Nigel Popham, drinks analyst at Teather & Greenwood, the stockbroker. "You could argue that Mrs Beckett probably didn't understand the issues very well. I don't think she realised how the industry worked and what the consequences would be."

Her dilemma was that the merger would clearly lead to job losses. That was its rationale: Bass would take over a smaller, weaker competitor and become Britain's biggest brewer, with a market share approaching 40 per cent. But this dominance could only be exploited by cost savings.

So she blocked a deal that would clearly limit competition within brewing, by reducing the main players from four to three. What she may not have realised is the desperate position this left Carlsberg-Tetley in.

The company's biggest supply agreement, of 4,000 Allied Domecq pubs on terms attractive to the brewer, expires at the end of this year. A new one is under negotiation. Allied, which is now out of brewing, can be as tough as possible on price and even threaten to take its trade elsewhere.

Carlsberg-Tetley are taking a very cautious line on their sales over the next few years," said Mr Popham. "They are having to focus

more on profitable business, if necessary at the expense of sales." He expects the company's market share to fall in the short term from 14 to 10 per cent, and go even lower if the Allied business is lost.

Allied is not the only pub owner taking a tough line with the brewers. The growth of imported brands; the switching by some consumers to wine, cider or even alcopops; greater sales of non-drink items, especially food as consumers eat out more; even the growth of the specialist theme pub: all make the amount of beer that passes across the bar less than it used to be.

At the same time the coalescing of various small chains of pubs — many created after the 1989 Beer Orders that forced the big brewers to sell part of their huge estates — into larger groups gives these bigger players greater bargaining power with the brewers. This week's deal for Nomura to buy the Innpre-

neur estate and run it alongside the existing pubs owned by the Japanese finance house is only the most recent example.

In 1986 we drank 192 pints per head of the population, according to the Brewers & Licensed Retailers Association. Last year this fell to 180 pints per head. Over the same period beer production fell from 36.6 million barrels to 35.4 million barrels.

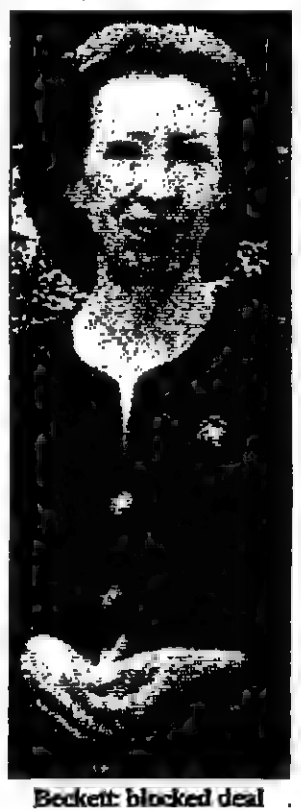
Meanwhile, competition from abroad strengthened. Imported beer sales rose from 1.2 million barrels to 2.1 million barrels, and this does not take into account beer brought in by private consumers or smugglers, a trade that has mushroomed since restrictions on personal imports were relaxed. The BLRA says one in every six pints drunk in the home has been shipped across the Channel.

Beer consumption has long been on a falling trend, for a variety of demographic reasons. The first was the decline in heavy manufacturing industry; other laws include the drink-driving licence, the ageing of the population and the trend towards healthier living.

More efficient brewing processes have required a smaller workforce, while better roads have always signalled the demise of the local brewery — significantly, neither Alia nor Wrexham (two of the three breweries being closed) is well connected to the motorway network.

Yesterday's closures clearly signal that Carlsberg-Tetley is prepared to lose sales rather than embark on a damaging price war. But the result can only be the further strengthening of the big players, especially Bass and Scottish & Newcastle with their strong market positions, 23 and 28 per cent respectively, and strong brands such as Carling Black Label and Foster's. The process becomes self-fulfilling: only the big companies can afford the marketing spend to keep their brands successful. This pre-eminence cannot be prevented merely by stopping them from merging.

Mr Popham, of Teather & Greenwood, said: "In a marketplace where brands are becoming more important, both to pub owners and consumers, Carlsberg-Tetley aren't really in the game. The market will over time purely by organic means be increasingly dominated by two companies."



Beckett: blocked deal

BUSINESS LETTER

More to non-executive work than one day a month

From Mr Geoffrey Parker
Sir, As a non-executive director myself, albeit of lesser companies than the Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, I must protest at the comment (Business, September 11) that Kenneth Clarke "... receives £18,000 a year for devoting one day a month to [his] position ...". This sort of

comment by those who should know better is all too common.

The public should be made aware that a non-executive director of an active company is in receipt of a constant flow of paperwork which he must digest and be prepared to discuss: that he is not infrequently engaged on the telephone with fellow directors or

company officials; and, most importantly, that in law he is a director of the company not merely for one day a month but for 365 days a year. £18,000 a year is a little less than £50 a day. Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY PARKER, 6 The Green Walk, Chingford, E4.

Sold out

THE cupboard is pretty well bare at BZW's retail team. In fact, Tony Shiret is the only one left after the departure of David McCarthy, food retail analyst, to NatWest Securities. Bruce Hubbard, his colleague, went to Capels earlier this week. Charlie Nichols, Shiret's colleague on the general retailing team, went to Capels a couple of weeks ago. At least one specialist salesman has gone too. All rather ironic, because there have been rumours floating around for some time that Shiret was

being poached for some huge sum. But he was still there last night. "I'm definitely not going to Salomons," he said. "And I'm definitely happy at BZW." One person who is leaving the new BZW offices at Canary Wharf is David Simpson, though. The investment banker who specialised in working with venture capital houses is heading for David Beever's team at KPMG Corporate Finance. He is spending his gardening leave before December learning to fly.

MICK NEWMARCH, the bruiser ejected from the Prudential at the start of 1995, has popped up again and will shortly be running another public company for the first time since then. The man once in charge of one of the biggest players in financial services will in four days time arrive as chairman of ... Bourne End Properties. You know, Bourne End Properties. The property company. No, I had never heard of it either.



"Gentlemen, it's grim news, our jobs appear to be secure..."



found one that has notched up more miles in the air than Richard Branson — and flying solo. In January Paul Griffin, a partner at Ashurst Morris Crisp, travelled on BA to Singapore. He got there, but his luggage, including one of the firm's laptop computers in its own bag, didn't. Months later, back in London, he had written the machine off when his company picked up a message on the Internet.

The laptop had been found on a KLM flight from Vancouver to Amsterdam. A KLM employee whose hobby was computers was handed it. He broke the security code, don't ask me how, worked out what it was and sent the message. The computer would not say how it got to Vancouver. In fact, it threw a complete suit. It seems the beast had planned a safari holiday in Kenya after the Amsterdam trip, and it was too late to cancel and get all its money back.

ver. In fact, it threw a complete suit. It seems the beast had planned a safari holiday in Kenya after the Amsterdam trip, and it was too late to cancel and get all its money back.

Logged off

"NOW the office PC can do the firing," says a jaunty little letter from a software house to which I feel no temptation to give any publicity. Yes, firms can buy a program that will sack their employees properly and without running foul of wrongful dismissal claims — or, presumably, having to look them in the eye. "All the legal paperwork necessary to get rid of troublesome people on the payroll", it promises. And a special bit for firing people for being drunk.

Isn't the modern world wonderful?

ALLEN & OVERY, the firm of City lawyers, had an intellectual property reception this week, whatever that may be. Very jolly, in the courtyard of its palatial City offices. Part of the entertainment was a medieval jester juggling and doing tricks. "He had all this foreign money, like euros and dollars," my informant tells me, "and he made them all disappear." A trick that lawyers have always been rather good at...

Fall guy

INSTEAD of my usual picture of a rich, complacent businessman in a suit, I can today bring you a rich, scared businessman in a suit being pushed over Victoria Falls. He is Jonathan Oppenheimer, of Anglo American Corporation, and he is doing the longest bungee jump in the world. While dressed for the office, complete with briefcase. It is not a charity stunt. It raises two questions. Why? And given just how rich Oppenheimer is, how much did the escapee cost to insure?

MARTIN WALLER



Jonathan Oppenheimer dives off the Victoria Falls Bridge in a bungee jump

Alvis plc
(Incorporated in England and Wales with registered number 731159)

Alvis Funding plc
(Incorporated in England and Wales with registered number 3407706)

Application for listing by Alvis plc of 17,155,858 New Alvis Ordinary Shares
Application for listing by Alvis Funding plc of 17,155,858 Stock Units at a price of 120p per unit in connection with the proposed Acquisition of Hagglands Vehicle AB

Alvis Funding plc is raising approximately £20.1 million (net of expenses) by way of 1 Stock Unit for every 4 existing Ordinary Shares and 76,922 Stock Units for every 1,000 existing Convertible Preference Shares, at 120p per Unit. The obligations of Alvis Funding plc in respect of the Stock Units have been guaranteed unconditionally and irrevocably by Alvis plc.

Copies of the Prospectus published on 25 September 1997 may be obtained during normal business hours for a period of two business days up to and including 30 September 1997 from the Company Announcements Office, London Stock Exchange Limited, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP (for collection only) and on any weekday (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 10 November 1997, from:

HSBC Investment Bank plc
Vintner's Place
68 Upper Thames Street
London EC4V 3BJ

Alvis plc
and Alvis Funding plc
both of
215 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London SW1V 1EN

26 September 1997

Equities in retreat

THE ~~SUNDAY~~ TIMES
Portfolio

No	Company	Group	Size of Group
1	CML Micro	Electronic	
2	Car Group	Disctb's	
3	Swire Pacific	Dw Inds	
4	Trinity Hldgs	Eng. Vah	
5	Sappi	Print Pap	
6	Hazlewood	Food Man	
7	Celcis	Healthcare	
8	RGC	Mining	
9	Gowings	Disb'd's	
10	LSH	Property	
11	Railtrack	Transport	
12	Allied Int'l	Bank	
13	Nymcham	Print Pap	
14	Dynasol	Telecoms	
15	TeleWest	Telecoms	
16	Photobit	Print Pap	
17	Jarvis Porter	Print Pap	
18	Cobham	Engin'ng	
19	Reed Int	Media	
20	Decora	Property	
21	Brannan	Disb't's	
22	Be Int'l	Oil & Gas	
23	Navis Perkins	Bl'd Mas	
24	Bodycote	Engin'ng	
25	IT	Engin'ng	
26	Hewynth	Bl'd Mas	
27	Dixons Grp	Ret Gen	
28	Wellington	Insurance	
29	Shield Diag	Healthcare	
30	TT Group	Oil Inds	
31	Berry Beh Wbl	Oil Fld	
32	Sotrax-Sarco	Engin'ng	
33	More Grp	Property	
34	Bourne Ind	Oil & Gas	
35	Oil Search	Oil & Gas	
36	Wise	Disb't's	
37	Brooks Serv	Serv Srv	
38	Wace	Print Pap	
39	UniChem	Healthcare	
40	Low & Bonar	Print Pap	
41	Broken Hill	Dw Inds	
42	Alpha Air	Serv Srv	
43	Ocean Wksn	Transport	
44	UD News	Media	

DAILY DIVIDEND

+38

Claims required for +38 per
claimants should ring
0171-481 3388
between 9.30am-5pm

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily route
to catch the weekly dividend
published in the *Sunday Times* to win
£10,000.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Weekly announcement last

**There were no winners
yesterday**

[illegible]

94% Atlantic Reentry	125	15	15
170 Code Entry	185	+ 3%	20
153% Country Entry	222	0	0.9
180 Dimension Help	225	+	2.7
33% Freeway	364	-	2.1
75% MegaSearch	815	- 1%	0.3
22% Memory Card	384		
380 Print Run	500		
100% Print Size	1115	- 19%	31
619% Search Entry	1115	- 19%	31
65% Southern Vector	674		9.1
17% Tracodex	194		

[illegible]

Low Company	Price	%	+/-	%	High	Low Company	Price	%	+/-	%
80 Baker	1198+	2	15	42.81	34	24 Sutherland Inc	872+	4	33	26.4
81 Baker	1201+	15	4	24.24	35	25 Sutherland Inc	872+	4	33	26.4
82 Baker	1201+	15	4	24.24	35	26 Sutherland Inc	872+	4	33	26.4
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6	Hazlewood	Food Man	
7	Celcis	Healthcare	
8	RGC	Mining	
9	Gowrings	Disbnd's	
10	LSH	Property	
11	Railtrack	Transport	
12	Allied Int'l	Bank	
13	Nymcham	Print Pap	
14	Omigonal	Telecoms	
15	TeleWest	Telecoms	
16	Photobit	Print Pap	
17	Jarvis Porter	Print Pap	
18	Cobham	Engin'ng	
19	Reed Int	Media	
20	Decursa	Property	
21	Brannner	Disbnd's	
22	Be Int'l	Oil & Gas	
23	Navis Perkins	Bldg Mat	
24	Bodycote	Engin'ng	
25	IT	Engin'ng	
26	Hewynorth	Bldg Mat	
27	Dixons Grp	Ret Gen	
28	Wellington	Insurance	
29	Shield Diag	Healthcare	
30	TT Group	Oil Inds	
31	Berry Beh Wbl	Oil Fld	
32	Sotrax-Sarco	Engin'ng	
33	More Grp	Property	
34	Bourne Ind	Oil & Gas	
35	Oil Search	Oil & Gas	
36	Wise	Disbnd's	
37	Brooks Serv	Serv Srv	
38	Wace	Print Pap	
39	UniChem	Healthcare	
40	Low & Bonar	Print Pap	
41	Broken Hill	Dw Inds	
42	Alpha Air	Serv Srv	
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53	109% All London	364	14
54	109% All London	376	11
55	109% All London	388	8
56	109% All London	400	5
57	109% All London	412	2
58	109% All London	424	0
59	109% All London	436	0
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61	109% All London	460	0
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98	109% All London	904	0
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153%	Country Editor	222%	09 15
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33%	Memphis	36%	1
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COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE

FOCUS

Change and challenge
in Middle England

Craig Seton introduces a three-page report on an area poised for an economic boom

Commitment to change and innovation rank high in the strategy to regenerate and diversify the economy of Warwickshire and in particular of Coventry, its biggest city, into the next century.

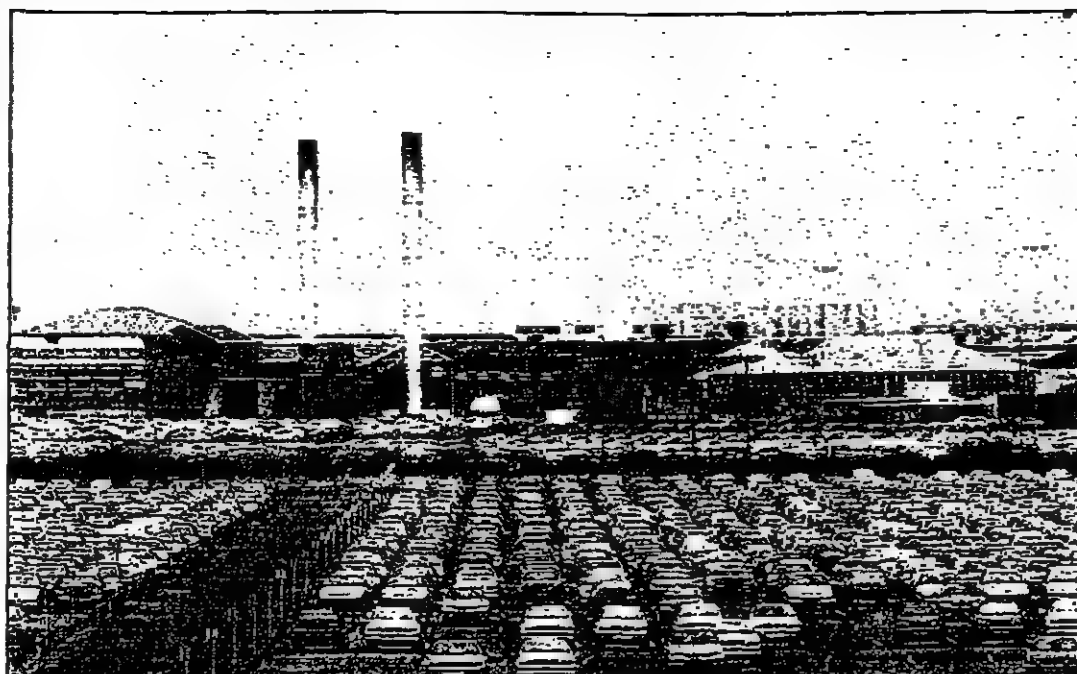
Co-ordination of the economic strategy for the sub-region's disparate urban and rural parts is in the hands of the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership, formed as a private company in 1994. The area's pace of change and its growing global competitiveness identify it as an attractive location for further inward investment and reinvestment by existing companies.

"Coventry and Warwickshire is certainly not frightened of the future any more," says Myles Mackie, principal strategy officer at Coventry City Council. "We have been modernising and investing in the future since the recession of the late 1970s and early 1980s, and with 300 overseas firms we have an international outlook."

Many of the sub-region's companies, especially those in its automotive sector, have revolutionised production techniques and business strategies in line with international trends and have played their role in the export-led recovery of the UK economy.

Unemployment, a scourge when recession ravaged the labour-intensive manufacturing base, has now dropped to 7 per cent in Coventry. The city remains a powerful engineering and automotive centre that has also attracted modern industrial service sector businesses and overseas firms.

In the more prosperous south, around the tourist honeypots of Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Kenilworth and Leamington Spa, joblessness is nearer 3 per cent. But not every location has benefited equally from the healthier economy; in deprived areas of Coventry and, in the north, around Atherstone, Bedworth and Nuneaton, economic regeneration is a big



The Peugeot assembly plant at Ryton, Coventry, continues to be a driving force in the sub-region

priority to provide more jobs, better housing and redevelop derelict industrial sites.

The Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership is an alliance of city, county and other local councils, the Chamber of Commerce and Training and Enterprise Council (now merged as "The Chamber"), private businesses, unions, universities, colleges and voluntary organisations. It manages £29 million from the Single Regeneration Budget.

Trevor Cornfoot, executive manager, says: "There is real optimism that the restructuring is going to be especially fruitful as we diversify and strengthen the economy."

The number of high technology businesses is growing and there are extensive technological links between higher education and industry. Many companies are benefiting from a collaborative pro-

gramme to improve their world-class competitiveness. Priority is also being given to making prime, market-ready sites available for new investors.

Manufacturing accounts for almost 25 per cent of jobs in big employers such as the telecoms firm GPT, Europe's largest tractor maker, Massey Ferguson, Rolls-Royce, Unipart, Courtauld, car-makers Jaguar and Peugeot and taxi manufacturer Caribodies.

Rover has its research and development site and corporate HQ in south Warwickshire and, with its BMW parent, is to build a £400 million engine plant in the county at the Hams Hall distribution park and Channel Tunnel rail freight link.

Other major employers are GEC Alsthom, TNT, Ford and Automotive Products, Conoco and IBM. Other overseas investors include

the US car component firms Lear Seating and Johnson Controls and companies such as Computer-visions, Sandvik and Nippondenso.

The Nuneaton-based Motor Industry Research Association is a centre of excellence for automotive research and development.

The University of Warwick is high in the UK's university rankings. It has a renowned business school and its Warwick Manufacturing Group has established industrial partnerships with more than 300 firms. The university's science park has created an innovation centre in Warwick, and Coventry University is developing its own technology park.

UK and European Union funds are being exploited to help revival, especially in economically-deprived areas, with the national regeneration agency, English Partnerships, playing an important role.

Lucy Hodges
reports on two
universities at
the cutting edge
of development

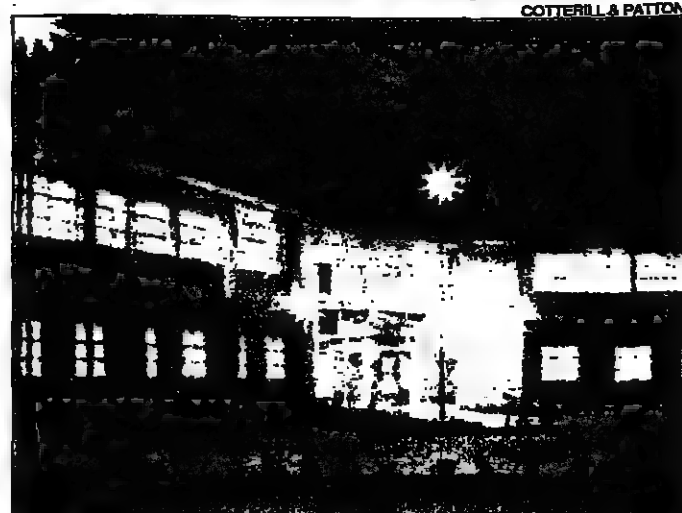
WHEN the Coventry School of Design was established in 1843, the burghers could have had no idea what a hub it and Warwickshire would become for education. The school has now transformed itself into the University of Coventry by way of Coventry Poly and Lanchester Tech, and three miles away Warwick University has become one of Britain's leading research universities.

Each university educates around 16,000 students: Coventry has its feet firmly in the local community, with more than a quarter of students coming from the area and another quarter from the Midlands generally; in 25 years, Warwick has rocketed to the top of anybody's league table of UK universities, jostling with Oxford, Cambridge and some London colleges for one of the top five positions.

This year *The Times* placed Warwick fifth in its league table of universities, while the *Times Higher Education Supplement* put it fourth for research, following the exercise carried out by the Higher Education Funding Council last year. The university received the top grade 5 in the research assessment exercise in nine subjects and the stellar grade 5* in computer science, history and mathematics.

As Peter Dunn, Warwick's press officer, explains: "The two key things responsible for our success are that we are entrepreneurial and research driven. The fact that we score well in the research league tables feeds into our teaching. If you're an active researcher at the cutting edge of your subject, you're likely to be a cutting-edge teacher."

Although not as high up the rankings, Coventry is proud of its achievements, particularly in design. Its art and design department achieved a grade 4 (out of a maximum of 5) in the research assessment exercise. It combines high academic standards with a modern approach to teaching and a strong emphasis on educa-



Pioneering research: Warwick University Innovation Centre

A Midlands
double first
by design

tion for employment, according to Dr Michael Goldstein, its Vice-Chancellor.

"It has strong links with a wide range of employers which makes its courses relevant to the modern world and reflects its high

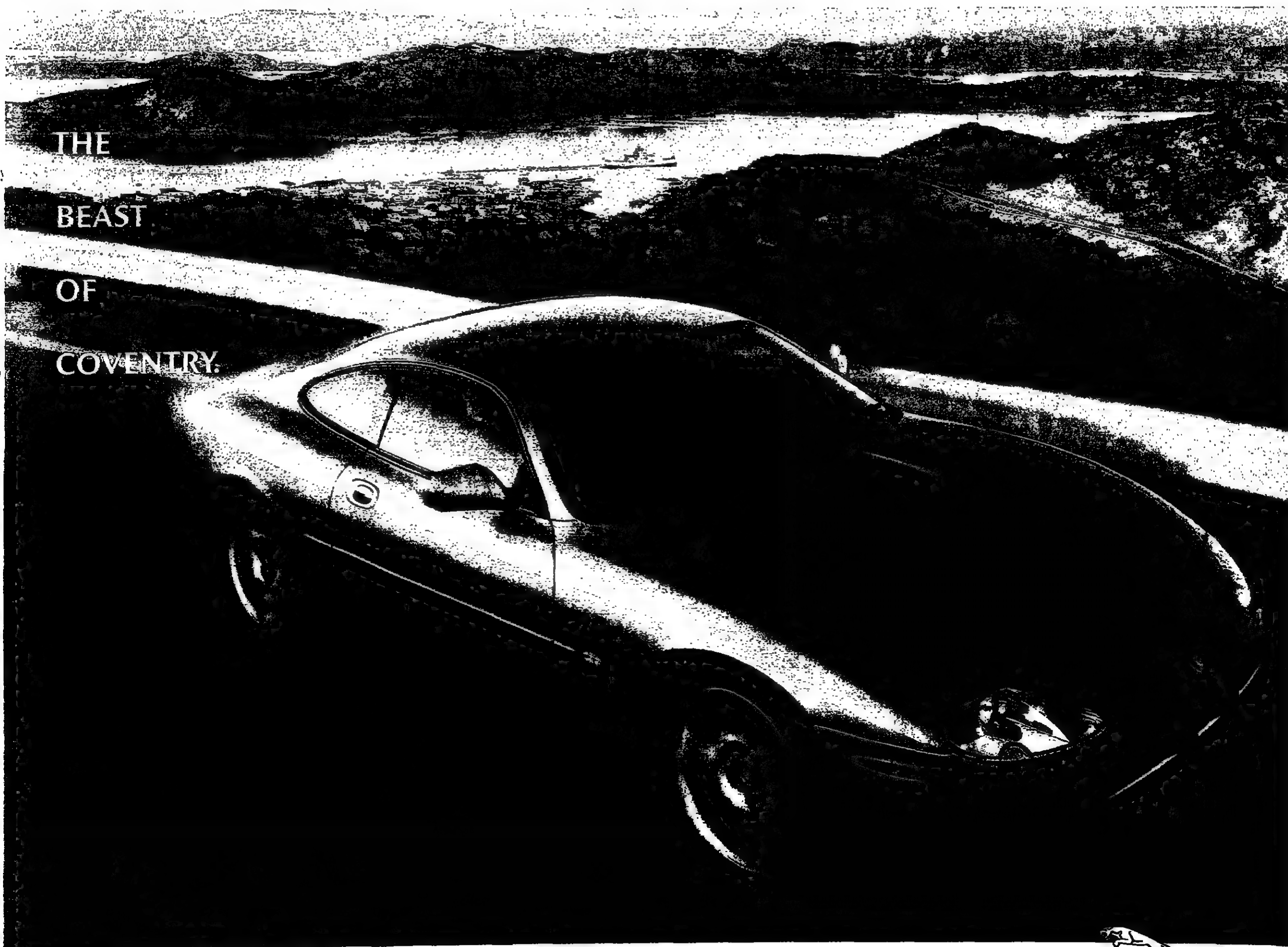
quality," he says. "The university is particularly noted for the support it gives to students' learning and their welfare."

Furthermore, its flexible course structures mean that students have a vast range of choice available. Much of the research comes out of the visual and information design centre, where staff and students are developing new computer-based methods to boost the efficiency of designers in the motor vehicle business. They are also creating interactive multimedia programmes as alternatives to the printed word. These would provide technical instruc-

tion to engineers working in the aerospace industry. Earlier this year a car design by Coventry University Transport Design graduate Justin Magee was exhibited at the British Design Excellence exhibition. At the same event, the university displayed the fruits of a collaborative project with Lucas Aerospace, co-ordinated by Dr Tony Robotham of the engineering school. Coventry University's MA in automotive design is one of only two such courses in Britain. Together with the BA (Hons) and MDes in transport design, these courses have produced graduates who have joined design studios and consultancies across Europe and the US. One of them, Steve Martin, is responsible for the exterior styling of the revolutionary A-class Mercedes being launched in Britain next year.

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Graduates get help with business ideas

Coventry University is building a multi-million-pound technology centre to provide specialist facilities for local innovators, including its own graduates, who will be helped to develop technology-based businesses, *Craig Seton* writes.

English Partnerships and Coventry City Council are partners in the project, which will be Coventry and Warwickshire's second higher-education institution to harness the technology transfer between academia and industry to create new commercial enterprises.

The University of Warwick Science Park in Coventry was created in the early Eighties and has proved that high-tech businesses linked to university research can thrive in "incubator" units backed by technological support and know-how.

More than 1,000 people work for the 70 firms at its site. A further ten firms operate from its first satellite innovation centre 12 miles away in Warwick, with the support of

A technology centre is set to benefit former university students

the county council. The development at Coventry University is being built on a 20-acre, former Rolls-Royce engineering site.

A grant of £5 million from the European Regional Development Fund has been awarded, as it meets the European Union's criteria for job creation, urban regeneration, land reclamation and training.

A TechnoCentre housing a product innovation centre, support and demonstration units, and training and conference facilities will be the first to be opened. There are also plans for a hotel.

The product innovation centre will be the base for the university's graduate enterprise scheme, designed to help

graduates who have shown entrepreneurial flair and innovation in design, engineering and technology to set up their own businesses.

Graduates setting up businesses will receive £1,000 in their first operational year. In the second and third year, they must generate their own funding, which will be matched by the university up to a maximum of £27,000 a year per project.

The technology park will mean a cultural change for the university in its relationship with industry and in the development of its courses, according to Dr Eulian Roberts, the university's director of commercial affairs. He says eligibility criteria mean potential tenants must undertake research, product or technology development and/or technology-based training and support services as their primary function on the site. Dr Roberts foresees even closer links being established with industry and government and local authority agencies.

The new technology park also promises to be a jobs



The science park provides technological back-up

creator. The University of Warwick Science Park has fulfilled its promise to generate jobs beyond its boundaries and into other parts of Coventry and Warwickshire. The great majority of 200 jobs created last year by former science-park-based companies that have since relocated to new premises have stayed in the sub-region. David Rowe, the science park director, says the new innovation centre in Warwick ensures that small knowledge-based enterprises in Coventry and Warwickshire can benefit from the science park concept.

His management team is discussing plans for another satellite centre elsewhere in the sub-region, although no details have been given.

Craig Seton on the range of automotive producers and component makers

Hub of the car industry

Many firms that make the West Midlands the heart of the rejuvenated UK automotive industry are based in Warwickshire and represent a crucial part of its manufacturing base.

The sub-region has a vehicle-building tradition dating back to the birth of the British car industry in 1896, when the Daimler company produced its first model in Coventry. Today, the area is the base for a range of automotive producers and component makers, including overseas supply firms lured to the hub of the UK motor industry.

Jaguar, a subsidiary of the US Ford Motor Company, and French-owned Peugeot, together employ nearly 10,000 people on their assembly lines in Coventry.

Rover, owned by the German firm BMW, has its research and development centre at its proving ground at Gaydon in South Warwickshire and its corporate headquarters in Warwick.

The overseas owners of Jaguar and Rover have had a big impact on the fortunes of their UK subsidiaries. According to the Coventry and Warwick-



The MIRA facility puts a Jaguar car through its suspension testing programme

shire Partnership, Ford has invested up to £1 billion in Jaguar and is to spend up to £400 million on a new plant to produce a new baby Jaguar, the X200, at its Castle Bromwich site in Birmingham. In a project that will create big orders for

component suppliers. Jaguar has said, though, that its proposed mid-range X400 model will probably have to be built overseas because of a lack of capacity at its Birmingham and Coventry plants.

It is likely, however, that the sub-region's economic strategy partners will fight hard to have the new model built locally.

BMW has announced plans for a £400 million engine plant at the Hams Hall distribution park and Channel Tunnel rail terminal in Warwickshire to provide power units for the two companies.

The sub-region is benefiting from a surge of inward investment by overseas component suppliers setting up production facilities near their customers, among them US firms Lear Seating and Johnson Controls.

Coventry and Warwickshire, though, face stiff competition from other European locations.

The component firm Edscha, based in Germany, has established its first UK manufacturing centre on the Middlemarch Business Park in Coventry, but only after examining other sites in Spain, Slovakia and the UK. It cited the location's proximity to carmakers, excellent communications and skilled lab-

our force for its decision. Joint ventures by component makers are also becoming more common among firms that see international partnership as the best way to meet the demands for higher quality and lower costs.

Unipart Industries in Coventry has forged three joint ventures with Honda, and Topy Industries of Japan has a 15 per cent interest in Dunlop Wheels, the UK's biggest wheel manufacturer, which supplies Rover and Peugeot from its Coventry plant.

The sub-region also plays an important role in providing research and development facilities and business management and best-practice training for car firms operating in the global market.

The Nuneaton-based Motor Industry Research Association is an independent development, research, test and information centre with advanced computer-aided engineering facilities used by carmakers and component firms throughout the world.

Companies including Jaguar, Rover and Mercedes-Benz are among 300 firms that have established long-term partnerships with the Warwick Manufacturing Group at the University of Warwick, which has become a centre of excellence for engineering and development and training.

Fast track to prosperity

Local economy benefits from plans to improve road and rail links

ALREADY well served by road, rail and air links, Coventry and Warwickshire are set for further benefits when improvements and upgrading worth hundreds of millions of pounds are carried out on the communications infrastructure that is so vital to the local economy.

Many companies, both from the UK and overseas, have based themselves in Coventry and Warwickshire precisely because of the area's central location and its communications network.

It is astride the national motorway system, putting most locations in Britain within a five-hour lorry journey and making it popular with firms who need to reach their customers quickly and regularly. It is also served by the West Coast main rail line

between London and Birmingham and the north-west, and has Birmingham International Airport close by.

Business organisations, councils and national road freight organisations have long called for a northern relief road to provide a new route, bypassing the overburdened M6 north of Birmingham that runs through Coventry and Warwickshire.

The Government has now approved the project, although it will not open until after 2000. Birmingham International Airport is on the western fringe of the sub-region and

Coventry City Council is one of its seven West Midlands local authority owners to have sold a 40 per cent stake in the enterprise to Aer Rianta, which runs Shannon, Cork and Dublin airports in the Irish Republic.

The sell-off makes way for a £260 million expansion of the airport to cope with an anticipated doubling of its annual passenger turnover to ten million by 2005. Birmingham airport runs scheduled daily services to many UK and European destinations, and three global carriers run scheduled services to the United States. British Airways flies to New

York and Toronto. American Airlines has services to Chicago, and Continental Airlines began operating to Newark, New Jersey, earlier this year. Coventry airport has been chosen by ParcelForce for its £100 million distribution centre. Expansion and improved services are promised on the West Coast main rail line from London, which services Coventry and Rugby. Rail-track is to invest up to £1 billion upgrading the line, while Virgin Rail, operator of the InterCity services from London, has promised to refurbish trains and introduce more, better and faster services using trains that could put Coventry within an hour of the capital.

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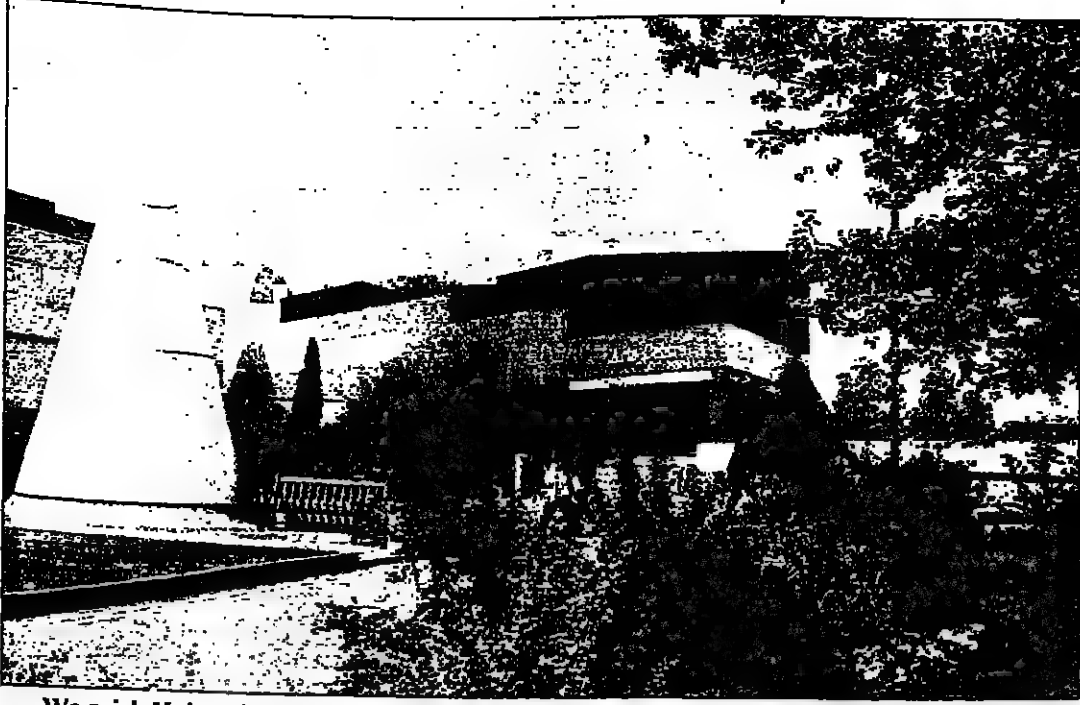
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Warwick University Arts Centre: now the biggest performing arts venue after the Barbican

Enter: cultural rebirth

Shakespeare's county overflows with the arts, says Simon Tait

After the Second World War, Belgrade made a poignant and practical gift to devastated Coventry. It provided timber to help rebuild the city's cultural identity by creating a new theatre.

When the theatre was completed in 1958, it was the most up-to-date playhouse in Britain, with a programme to march and a pioneering spirit which created the first Theatre-in-Education (TIE) scheme.

It is a testament to the effectiveness of that initiative that there are now 34 small to medium-sized theatre companies in Coventry, and last year it even had to abandon its TIE programme for lack of resources. But its commitment to producing drama for its audience has never diminished.

According to David Beidas, general manager, the theatre hopes to hear next month that the Arts Council has granted its bid for £1 million of lottery money for new equipment and a feasibility study into full-scale refurbishment. Then, in five years' time, there could effectively be a brand new theatre

in Coventry. The spirit of renaissance coincides with the appointment last year of a new artistic director, Bob Eaton, and a revival in the Belgrade's box office fortunes. In 1996 there was a 13 per cent leap in attendance figures, to 150,000, and this year a similar increase is likely.

The season which has just opened features a new musical, *Specter*, about the sounds of the early Sixties; a *Romeo and Juliet* production created in-house and directed by Chris Monks; a new production from the Market Theatre of Johannesburg; and the now traditional Iain Lauchlan pantomime to take the season into 1998.

But the Belgrade is also part of a bigger development across the road, for which the city has made a much more ambitious lottery bid. It has asked for £16.5 million of the £22.5 million cost of creating a cultural centre for training in dance, composition, drama, film and video making, record production and information technology.

It might seem odd that within "Shakespeare Country", the term cultural revival should carry much weight, but it does. Warwickshire has the home of the Bard, with the three theatres of the Royal Shakespeare Company, and the RSC has its own ambitious plans for development in line with its consolidation this

season of Stratford-upon-Avon as its home and base of operations, which include an education centre.

Warwick Arts Centre has been a mentor for the Coventry development. Opened in 1974 as part of Warwick University, it has become the biggest performing multi-disciplinary arts venue outside London, second only to the Barbican Centre. It has a 560-seat theatre, a studio theatre for 200, and a film theatre for 250. Recent developments include a concert hall for 1,500 and a flexible exhibition hall.

With an audience of 250,000 a year, it has been able to attract the Royal National Theatre's production of David Hare's *Skyline* for 1997, and this season is the only theatre outside Scarborough to stage Sir Alan Ayckbourn's new play, *The Things We Do For Love*.

At Compton Verney in the Warwickshire countryside, ambitious plans are afoot for a £60 million opera house in the grounds, while in the 16th-century manor house itself, a visual arts centre is being created at a cost of £7 million by the Peter Moores Foundation. Architects Stanton Williams have also designed a new gallery attached to the house: on show will be art ranging from 16th-century Flemish sculpture to work by 20th-century artists such as Sandra Blow and John Piper.

For Jaguar and St George

Tourists discover a fascinating city to be sent to, reports Iola Smith

A THOUSAND years after Lady Godiva rode through the streets, Coventry is waking up to its tourism potential.

A million visitors go to the city each year, attracted by medieval history and mythology. Legend has it backed up by a 15th-century wood carving of St George and the dragon that Coventry was the birthplace of St George. And the city has always been associated with Lady Godiva — the 11th century's scourge of the taxman.

Lady Godiva, however, has left her mark on history as well as mythology. Together with her husband, Leofric, Earl of Mercia, she endowed the Benedictine priory of St Mary in 1043. It became Coventry's first cathedral, subsequently destroyed by Henry VIII.

Coventry's medieval wealth was based on wool and cloth. During the 15th century and the wool merchants' prosperity benefited the city's architecture. Between 1340 and 1400 they built one of the finest medieval buildings still standing — the red sandstone Guildhall of St Mary.

During the Civil War, Coventry was a parliamentary stronghold. Being "sent to Coventry" was therefore not a pleasant experience for royalists. They got their revenge when Charles II ascended the throne — he blew up most of the city's walls as punishment.

During the 18th and early 19th centuries Coventry was dominated by the ribbon industry. However, after a slump in 1860, new employment was sought and the engineering revolution began. First came the sewing machines, then bicycles. Finally, in 1896, came the car produced by the Daimler Motor Company. Car production has dominated since, and fans of historic cars will welcome a visit to the Museum of British Road Transport. It traces Coventry's contribution to the world motor industry, and prominence is given to the marques associated with the city such as Jaguar and Rover.

The Midland Air Museum, based in Coventry, pays tribute to Sir Frank Whittle, one of the city's leading engineers and inventor of the jet engine. The history of local

aviation is also illustrated, with some 35 aircraft on display.

During the Second World War, planes brought the blitz to Coventry. In November 1940 the second cathedral, St Michael's, dating from the 14th century, was heavily bombed. Sir Basil Spence's new cathedral now stands alongside the ruins, designed as a symbol of reconciliation. Its interior is dominated by Graham Sutherland's *Christ in Glory* tapestry. But since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the sculpture of Christ made of metal reclaimed from crashed cars has become a place of pilgrimage.

Within the surrounding ruins of St Michael's there is public open space and a performance venue for the medieval mystery plays. A cross made of roof beams salvaged from the bombing dominates the space, together with a peace statue, a copy of which is in Hiroshima.

"We are developing a heritage trail linking the Cathedral Quarter with some of the medieval buildings," explains

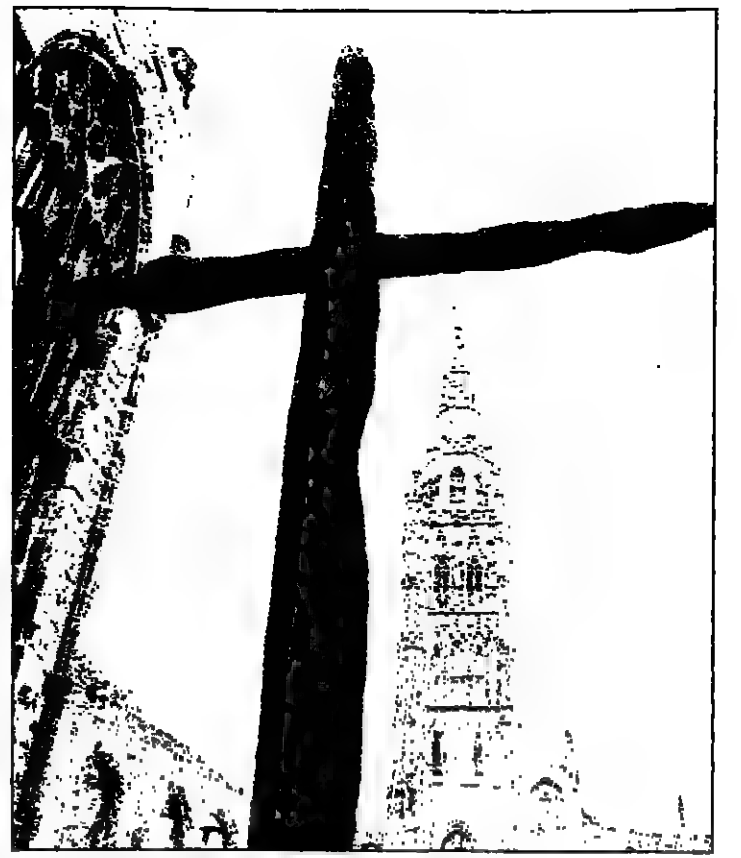
Peter Walters of Coventry and Warwickshire Promotions, a private sector company established by the city council to increase tourists' awareness of Coventry's history. "We are similarly planning a literary trail focusing on George Eliot, who went to school there, and Philip Larkin, who was born in the city."

For those interested in industrial history, tours of car plants and some of the 130 or so venues associated with the motor industry are on the cards.

Outside the city, Coombe Abbey Country Park attracts almost 400,000 visitors. Founded in 1150 by the Cistercians, the Abbey is now a country house hotel, but the gardens designed by Capability Brown are owned by the city. In November, as part of its Spirit of Coventry art festival, the city will stage a fireworks display in the park.

Unlike the surrounding Warwickshire countryside, Coventry does not have a tradition of attracting tourists.

But the city has shown that there is more to Warwickshire than Shakespeare and castles.

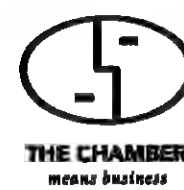


The wooden roof beam cross in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral

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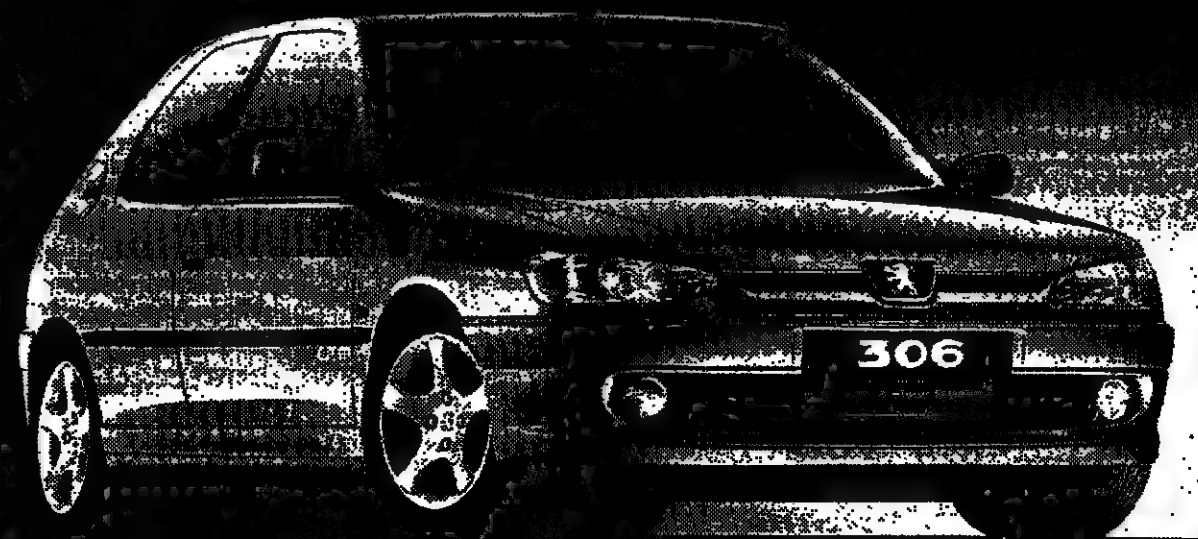
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When I heard that Dennis Marks had resigned, again, as general director of English National Opera, I was reminded of that fabled piece of office folklore about the man who puts on his saddest face and asks his boss for time off because his mother has died. "Twice in one year?" the boss replies with a thin smile. "That's jolly bad luck."

Marks has now resigned from ENO twice in one year. Some would call that jolly bad luck. Meanwhile, at the Royal Opera House they are on their third chief executive in nine months. Inexplicable bad luck! Both opera companies are millions of pounds in deficit. Obviously that's awfully bad luck too. Fortune just isn't smiling on our lyrical friends, is it?

Of course, there could be another explanation. Which is that running either London opera house is an impossible task because London can't support two companies. The subsidy isn't generous enough. The audience isn't big enough. The sponsors aren't

One opera house is trouble enough

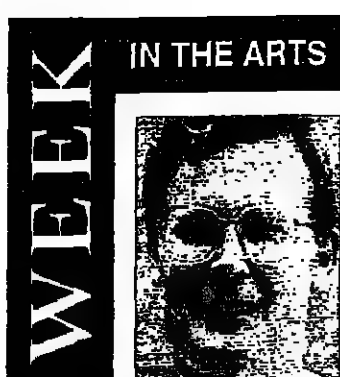
numerous enough. The companies aren't different enough. And the Government doesn't care enough. What London probably can support is one great opera house, run by sane people with a sane budget and sane ticket prices.

That is hardly an original thought. It occurred to George Frideric Handel, for instance, 260 years ago. He was desperately trying to keep his Royal Academy Opera going at Covent Garden while the rival Opera of the Nobility was competing for audiences, singers and patronage a few hundred yards down the road. Sounds familiar? The war between the companies was so bitter, Jonathan Swift noted, "that it is feared by true lovers of music that opera will be quite overturned".

And it was. Handel had a stroke, both companies went bust, and Britain lived in blissful ignorance

of the joys of grand opera for most of two centuries. How did we manage? Well, inaugurating the Industrial Revolution, acquiring the Empire, inventing cricket, football, rugby... we somehow kept ourselves amused. Meanwhile, Handel — freed of the burden of pampering egotistical singers (some of them particularly tetchy after being castrated in puberty) — recovered his health and wrote *Messiah*. So British musical life didn't suffer too badly.

I am not sure that Dennis Marks has a great oratorio in him, but the modern parallels are clear. Opera is loved by a sizeable minority of British people, but is hardly embedded in our national psyche to the extent that London can support two houses. I first pointed this out on these pages in April 1991. The date is etched on my mouldering brain because my



RICHARD MORRISON

"absurdly reductionist" view was promptly ridiculed by the big cheeses of both London opera companies — all of whom, strange to relate, have subsequently disappeared from the scene.

My hope was that the Arts Council would recognise the nonsense of maintaining two large-scale companies half a mile from each other, and engineer a strategic realignment. Foolish daydream! The Arts Council has since displayed the strategic capability of a headless chicken.

First it commissioned a report by Denis Stevenson recommending the conversion of ENO into a small company working in a small theatre. Then it gave ENO a whopping £1.4 million grant for a feasibility study into building a huge new opera house. Then, when ENO produced this 300-page epic, the Arts Council immediately told the company that it must stay in the Coliseum after all.

So in three years the Arts Council has backed three entirely different scenarios for ENO, sometimes simultaneously. No wonder

that Marks — a much-unloved figure, but a doughty fighter — finally crumpled.

The truth is that London will only have one opera company in, say, five years' time. But this, sadly, will come about not through planning (Covent Garden's two-year closure would have been the perfect opportunity to restructure both companies), but through ENO's painful collapse.

The company is £4 million in the red. The Coliseum is crumbling, and there is no money to prop it up. New productions will be slashed, and seat prices — boldly cut by Marks in an attempt to win a "People's Opera" — will be forced up again. ENO is slithering down a spiral of terminal decline.

And what's most galling for the hundreds of excellent people at the

Coliseum is the suspicion that the Arts Council is conspiring against them, while becoming unhealthy aligned to the Royal Opera House. Is that suspicion justified? We could judge better if we knew the contents of the "Walker-Armit Report" — a review of the probability of the Arts Council's relationship with Covent Garden in the wake of Mary Allen's murky transfer from one organisation to the other.

When will we read it? Don't hold your breath. The Arts Council is preparing a "summary", but won't release the text. Chris Smith, our fearless Culture Secretary, won't either, though he may refer to it when he answers select committee questions on November 5.

In other words, the public will probably never learn whether the Arts Council is exercising proper independent scrutiny of the biggest recipient of public arts subsidy. "Commercial sensitivity" is cited as the reason for suppressing the report. Absolute tosh. Since when was opera ever commercial? That's the whole damn problem.

Long haul for a laidback lad

Tom Stoppard did a lot of Latin homework before tackling his new play, he tells Benedict Nightingale

Shove a mike in front of Tom Stoppard, turn down the light, and you might mistake him for an amiably rumpled version of the Mick Jagger of 20 years ago. In fact, he turned 60 in July, soon after he received his knighthood, and he seems cheerfully resigned to his age. He has become less driven, he says. And though he still takes three newspapers a day and five magazines a week, he no longer feels the same compulsion to know everything about everything. "So what if Norman Mailer has written a biography of Jesus Christ? Part of me says: I don't care."

Still, he ended his fifties in full polymath flow. There is a Californian academic who knows more than him about the subject of his new *Invention of Love*, A.E. Housman; but there can be nobody else. Who but Stoppard would have spent five years poring up on Latin and the techniques of textual analysis, reading Propertius and Catullus in the original, and studying Victorians galore in order to write a play about a minor poet who was also a major scholar? He could, he says, write a book "that went into the whole question of 19th-century aesthetics and how they related to homosexuality and how they both related to Classical Greece". Part of him likes to research it still further, then tap it out, then die content.

The boy Stoppard studied Classics to A level, became rather good at composing

Greek verse, and might have read the subject at university if the lure of journalism had not propelled him into the real world at 17. He sold his Homer, Caesar and other textbooks to a bookshop for ten shillings. But at the age of 30 he met Tony Harrison, poet and classicist, and felt a tinge of regret and envy. And when he read a complete edition of Housman five years ago, and realised he wasn't just the author of *A Shropshire Lad*, Stoppard got busy.

Actually, relearning Latin was the least of Stoppard's problems. He found Housman's three volumes of textual criticism so witty and so aggressive in their attacks on academic chicanery that, he says, "I devoured them as if they were a three-volume novel". But large parts of them were so difficult they might have been written in another language. As recently as last Christmas Stoppard was still unsure what to do with the vast piles of unwieldy material he was continuing to accrue. "It was the longest haul I'd ever hauled. I had to stop and start writing. But I had no idea what sort of play to make out of it, none whatever."

After all, a personality as well as an academic career needed attention. Stoppard is not a homosexual, nor the misogynist Housman was widely said to be; but he developed great sympathy for the repressed, melancholy poet who spent a lifetime nursing an unrequited love for a fellow undergraduate called

Moses Jackson. He was also fascinated to discover that, though they never met, Housman overlapped at Oxford with Wilde, and sent him a copy of *A Shropshire Lad* while he was in prison.

What Stoppard ended up writing — or, he says, "fumbling towards, stubbing my toes" — was a memory play. In it, Housman appears both as a youth and as an elderly guru, and many period figures materialise, among them Wilde. "They represent different responses to the same predicament. Housman's life is supposed to have been a success, while Wilde crashed in flames, but from the perspective of the present one sees things differently. Wilde's life was in many ways a private success, and Housman was self-deprived and not happy. How can one say that an unhappy life is successful?"

Like *Arcadia* and *Indian Ink*, *The Invention of Love* seems likely to confirm the critics' contention that Stoppard has become emotionally less guarded. "Yes, you can't all be wrong. And it's not difficult to work out. I'm a very shy, private person and I camouflaged myself by display rather than by reticence. I became a repressed exhibitionist. I found emotional self-exposure embarrassing — and now I don't, or less so. The older I get, the less I care about self-concealment. But none of it is policy. At any given moment you write what you can."



"I'm a very private person, and I camouflaged myself by display," says Tom Stoppard. "But the older I get, the less I care about self-concealment"

In any case, fun is never far away. "Everything I've written seems to work on one comic level or another even if it's not madcap farce. When André Previn asked me to write something that used an orchestra, I came up with *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* and the idea of Russian dissidents locked up in mental

asylums, and I thought this would be the occasion when it wouldn't be a comedy. But of course it was. I'm afraid I can't seem to avoid writing jokes."

Indeed, he has been talking about a revival of his adaptation of Nestor's farcical *On the Razzle* and vaguely pondering an old idea: a comedy about a football team with five

players who are identical quins, distinguishable only by the numbers on their backs. But his only firmish intention seems to be to write a screenplay of *Arcadia*. After that, who knows? "I've got this play as good as I can make it. And I've no doubt there'll be another one eventually."

That laidback attitude is

new for Stoppard, who admits to having once been "in a fever of dread" when opening nights neared. He seems similarly relaxed about his knighthood. "My first reaction was, no, not yet. But I ended up with maybe 100 letters, and that completely transformed my attitude. I felt very proud and rather bashful."

The old, bug-eyed Stoppard is not quite extinct. Like Housman, he cannot bear professional sloppiness, and still works obsessively to ensure that his plays are properly carpentered. He also admits to being preoccupied by posterity — "the only reason one writes, really, I don't think I'd do so if I didn't think anybody would do my plays again."

Yet as his personal future gets shorter, he plans to make room for more than work and

work-worries. He would like to travel more, though not to the kind of Stoppard seminars or seasons whose organisers are always wooing him. "I'd love to go to New Zealand and not tell anyone beforehand. Just say, thank you for doing my play, I'm going to Christchurch, cheerio."

"Do you know *The Fugitive*? Harrison Ford is falsely accused of killing his wife and Tommy Lee Jones is pursuing him, and they come to a waterfall, and Ford shouts 'I didn't kill my wife', and Jones answers 'I don't care'. I think that's one of the great movie lines. Time is so limited. You have to choose what matters. And part of me is beginning to say 'I don't care'."

● *The Invention of Love* opens at the Cottesloe Theatre (0171-428 2252) next Wednesday

Cold in the shadow

Peter Hall postponed the originally planned opening of his production of *Lear*, presumably feeling that nobody would be in the mood to concentrate on an old, mythic king's woes, since the funeral of a very real and young Princess was to occur the next day. Some three weeks later, I find myself wishing that the first night had been even longer delayed. The more distance that could be put between Alan Howard's *Lear* at the Vic and Jan Holm's version at the National, the kinder the reception was always likely to be.

It is bad luck on both Howard and Hall to have coincided, more or less, with the finest *Lear* many of us can recall. I could name half a dozen revivals of the play that would leave us tolerably grateful for their efforts. But the memory of that tiny, intense figure, furiously raving as he stripped to the skin, just would not go away. Beside Holm, Howard emotionally inhabits *Lear* only sporadically. Beside him, he sometimes seems to sing rather than live the role.

It could be argued that this comparison is unfair. A small, intimate theatre like the Cottesloe is friendly to a gritty immediacy. The much larger Old Vic invites a rather more rhetorical approach. Yet there were still times when I wished

Howard would curb that magnificent mix of woodwind and brass, his voice. It is one thing to sound like a one-man symphony when striding through cloud, wind and tempest clutching what look like pieces of forked lightning. It is another to incant and melodically throb when the cosmic rant has to dwindle into "here I stand, a poor, infirm, weak and despised old man" or "I am a man more sinned against than sinning".

King Lear
Old Vic

Denis Quilley's genial Gloucester finds a simplicity of grief and pain seemingly beyond Howard. There are also some decent supporting performances, especially from the women. Given the moral roysturym and sexual politicking common in modern revivals of *Lear*, the unaffected warmth and goodness of Victoria Hamilton's Cordelia is refreshing, as is the svelte coldheartedness of Anna Carteret's Goneril and Jenny Quayle's Regan. But is Hall right to rely so much on the first Folio for his text? That produces some odd readings, as well as the excision of the great scene in which Lear arraigns a stool, thinking it to be Goneril.

On second thoughts, maybe this was better omitted. Howard has moments of variety and of daring. He is a tender, tactile Lear, forever touching and cuddling his daughters. Just before his death, he crawls over to the corpses of Goneril and Regan, and hovers above them like an aggrieved wolf, growling and showing his claws. He plays the mad scene at Dover with bravura, snarling at authority

as he gently comforts blind Gloucester. Yet is there a man within the oratorio, a heart behind the music? I never fully believed so.

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NEW ALBUMS: David Sinclair applauds the bittersweet symphonies of the suddenly huge Verve

Faith, hope and even clarity

THE VERVE
Urban Hymns
(Hut/Virgin 7243 8 44913)
£14.49

THE Verve are so hot just now it is hard to think of them as the same group of beautiful losers who split up in disarray just two years ago. Their new album, *Urban Hymns*, is a work of heady splendour that will doubtless follow their post-narcotic single, *The Drugs Don't Work*, straight to the top of the chart.

Such a transformation confirms the truism that in pop it is timing that makes the difference between the great and the very good. In the wake of Oasis, the ears of the mainstream audience have been returned to the sound of men with northern accents singing above a symphony of frayed electric guitars.

But that is not the whole story. The Verve have also adjusted their sound and songwriting so that their accomplishments might at last match the grand scale of their ambition. Their habit of burying Richard Ashcroft's vocals, along with any tune he might have been carrying, somewhere near the bottom of the mix has gone, and with it the resulting sense of droney, druggy ennui that permeated their two previous albums.

Instead, on gentle, reflective songs such as *Space and Time* and the adorable *Weeping Willow*, there is a clear sense of melody, lyric and song structure having been mapped out in advance, rather than being left to fend for themselves amid a vague, organically developed sprawl. The use of strings on *Bitter Sweet Symphony*, *Sonnet* and others reinforces this sense of purpose, while lending a new poignancy to Ashcroft's deeply personal reveries.

The Verve remain one of those bands for whom making music is more a mission than a career. But now, having paused long enough to know which way the wind blows, they have at last unlocked the power of all that aching, unresolved passion. They always seemed destined for great things. With *Urban Hymns* they have finally made good on their promise.

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The deeply personal reveries of leader Richard Ashcroft (centre) are finally granted their proper setting on the Verve's brilliant *Urban Hymns*

ROBBIE WILLIAMS
Life Thru a Lens
(Chrysalis/EMI 8213132)
£14.49

WHILE his former colleagues from Take That have struggled to find their own voices as solo acts, Robbie Williams seems to have had no problem in locating an uncontrived style of mildly rebellious, post-Oasis pop that is a faithful reflection of his personality.

The singles, *Lazy Days* and *Old Before I Die*, are blessed with the kind of effortlessly catchy choruses to which all genuine pop stars must ultimately aspire, and Williams also manages to pull off autobiographical rockers (*Life Thru a Lens*, *Let Me Entertain*

You), sentimental ballads (*Angels*, *Baby Girl Window*) and even an ersatz slice of southern funk-rock (*South of the Border*) with similarly sure-footed enthusiasm.

PORTISHEAD

Portishead
(Go! Beat 539 189, £13.99)

WITH their Mercury Music Award-winning debut album, *Dummy*, Portishead did as much as anyone to redefine the sound of 1990s pop. But the "trip hop" genre which they invented — hip hop beats slowed down and mixed with eerie melodies rooted in jazz — is beginning to wear thin on *Portishead*, the long-delayed follow-up, which does little

more than repeat the same unvarying formula.

The 11 new songs are without exception slow, squeaky and spooky and, while Beth Gibbons is a fine singer, her emotional range seems to be limited to a single, plaintive expression of angst. "We suffer every day, what is it for?" she asks in *Only You*, one of the prettier tunes on offer.

The purity of their vision, and the wonderfully dark atmosphere of individual tracks, especially *Seven Months* and *Mourning Air*, is admirable. But the album as a whole suffers from an insufficient variety of mood, texture, tone and tempo. The overall impression is of a talented

group strapping into a stylistic straitjacket.

BOB DYLAN
Time Out of Mind
(Columbia 486936 4/2/8)
£14.49

TO A huge sigh of relief from his record company and the dwindling core of fans who have stuck by him during seven long years of creative inertia, Bob Dylan has finally released an album of new songs. And it is not at all bad.

Dylan himself has described *Time Out of Mind* as more a "poetic literary type of thing" and, like his best work on, say, *Highway 61 Revisited*, there are songs here

that you can savour without reference to the lyrics. Indeed that is probably the best way to enjoy *Million Miles*, where a menacing, *Ballad of a Thin Man*-ish organ sequence is shackled to lines such as "I need your love so bad, turn your lamp down low".

But mostly the sombre, personal tone of the words is a perfect match for the melancholy, blues-based tunes and wheezing, old-fashioned production of tracks such as *Dirty Road Blues*, *Can't Wait* and *Love Sick*, the latter a dark, slow rumble with an odd reggae kick in the beat that is as bleak and powerful as anything he has recorded since the 1960s.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (1) *Be Here Now* Oasis (Creation)
- (2) *Merch'ry Already* Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
- (3) *Butterfly* Mariah Carey (Columbia)
- (4) *Maverick a Strike* Finley Quayle (Epic)
- (5) *White on Blonde* Texas (Mercury)
- (6) *OK Computer* Radiohead (Parlophone)
- (7) *Homogenic* Björk (One Little Indian)
- (8) *Older* George Michael (Virgin)
- (9) *The Fat of the Land* Prodigy (XL Recordings)
- (10) *The Very Best of* Supertramp (Polygram TV)

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© Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

Ladies' night at the Opry

Paul Sexton dons his stetson to attend the 1997 edition of the

Country Music Awards in Nashville

The advertising billboard on the Nashville skyline should have given us a clue. Smiling down beatifically at the visitor to the capital of country music this week was a towering portrait of Trisha Yearwood, as if to mark our card that Wednesday night's CMA Awards at the Grand Ole Opry were about to honour 1997's new sisterhood of country. The annual celebration of Nashville's latest movers and shakers, voted by the members of the Country Music Association, is not only the focal point of the country year but the occasion on which the hats and the hair sculptures make the front pages from sea to sea.

Yearwood herself landed the hotly contested Female Vocalist of the Year trophy. Yearwood, a bridesmaid too often among the cream of the country songbirds, was an immensely popular winner. The result brought whoops and cheers from the auditorium. Her victory capped a triumphant lady's night

duetting at the ceremony on a subtly twanged-up duet version of his *I'm So Happy I Can't Stop Crying* with rising star Toby Keith. Sting's warm reception from what has often in the past been a high-walled community suggests that some of the musical dividing lines are at least being smudged if not erased.

Meanwhile in Britain, country has become the musical equivalent of *Hello!* magazine: pshawed and poo-pooed, but secretly enjoyed by hundreds of thousands. Last year's CMA coverage on BBC2 drew an average audience of 2.2 million and the network is hoping for even better returns with its 90-minute highlight show of the 1997 event, which airs on Sunday evening.

Sting has become the latest rock star to go Nashville

To help to achieve the goal, Annie has unearthed another surprising adopted son of Tennessee to present the programme: the comedian Rory McGrath. He has his own part-time band called Death By Country, which has had the effect of turning him into a fan. "I started playing guitar when I was 16," he says, "and didn't want to be a rock star, so I thought I'd do some funny songs with a band." The plan was to ask fellow comedy writer Phil Pope to chip in on some gentle country parodies, but the plan backfired. "As Phil says, we came to the altar of country to mock and stayed to pray," says McGrath.

Native worshippers do so by more deliberate methods. Fully two and a half days before the awards spectacular, Opryland was full of single-minded punters, country fans who clearly consider it an honour to sit in attention at dimly-lit rehearsals at 9am, just to watch the scene-shifters. "You see the same faces again and again, year after year," says the veteran Opryland steward Goldie Evans. "You would think they could become a little bored."

Backstage, the ingenue vocalist Mindy McCready is anything but bored, getting ready for her part in the tribute to Country Music Hall of Fame inductee Brenda Lee. McCready is a senior student in the new school of country acts giving Nashville's image a timely respray.

"People still have the perception that it's all cowboy hats and cow dung, all the things country doesn't really represent any more," she says. "I don't want to be stereotyped. I've never worn a hat or cowboy boots."

Just like sisters, only much weirder

As a sibling your identity is the thing you hoard the most jealously. I can remember teasing my sister Wenie to tears when she got into the same music as me: I labelled her the Personality Sucker, and lounged evilly in doorways as she played the Cure, snickering: "Of course, you know you don't like this music, don't you? You're just trying to be me." Quite rightly, she punched me; stole my diary, and took to reading extracts out loud whenever cool friends were over.

So imagine the hair-pulling, narrow-eyed stares and dead-legging going on in the Minogue household at the moment. Just to recap: first

First there was Kylie Minogue, says Caitlin Moran, then there was Dannii, now there's, er...

there was Kylie. Shiny hair, teeth and eyes huge and displayed in the manner common to former child stars, and a million hits full of scintillating pop calories.

Three years later, the second Minogue offensive begins: Kylie's clumpy little sister Dannii lands on Albion's fair shores. Kylie won't share her stylist, so Dannii struggles by on her own. She has a hit and disappears again — the panto season, presumably.

But Kylie's got problems of

her own. Having been lauded by the icon-literate members of the alternative world — Primal Scream, St Etienne, Manic Street Preachers — for her fantastic production team and shiny hair, Kylie suddenly gets a bee in her bonnet. She wants to be cool. She wants to be arty. She wants to be respected. She doesn't realise that she already is cool, like blonde midget millionaires are cool. She doesn't realise she is art, like Warhol's Marilyn. She doesn't realise she's

respected — these hip soothsayers don't patronise her as kitsch, they respect her as indefatigable, trashy, throw-away pop that remains unwrinkled as the decades pass.

But anyway, for whatever reasons — niggling inadequacy, an itch to change things, maybe simply because she's got jam for brains — Kylie decides to Be Meaningful. As beautiful, desirable women tend to do when they want to look deep, she decides to look like a troll: the hair is hacked off and dyed to match the inside of old teapots; her lipstick is artfully smeared over her face; and ironically, as her hair is now dry and matted, her skin becomes as shiny as a damp balloon. Gone is Pop on the new album, replaced by drum'n'bass, trip-hop and gothic angst. It sounds like a money/sense ratio wildly out of proportion.

Dannii, on the other hand, has gone back to Minogue Mountain and had a good old think. "Kylie used to be blonde, uncomplicated, poppy and jolly popular," she muses. "But as soon as she stopped being the first three things, the fourth disappeared as well, and she's now being interviewed by uninterested ex-footballers on daytime TV. So there must be a gap in the market for a blonde, dim sex-kitten Minogue. Bingo! Payday! Housey-housey!"

This is why, in the past three weeks, you may have clutched your remote in a whirl of flashback confusion. For there, writhing on a bed on *The Chart Show*, has been the spit of '89 Kylie — sculpted cheekbones, wide blue eyes, candy-pink lippy, shiny blonde hair — singing the amazing Euro-pop A-Z that is *All I Wanna Do*. Two minutes later, you may have snapped your remote in half as The Real Kylie appeared singing *Some Kind of Bliss* — a Manic Street Preachers' C-side — and looking as if she was about to ask for spare change. *All I Wanna Do* is one of the biggest singles of 1997. *Some Kind of Bliss* peaked at 28, and then dropped out of the chart. Dannii Minogue has stolen Kylie's Kyliehood, and Kylie is, presumably, going to sulk all through Christmas dinner.

that'sundaysfeelin'

Static and Silence is less grounded in ancient music than the Sundays debut album. Bred, and brought less with a pop than *Peeling*, *Writing a Symphony* has the strongly song-based sensibility of their debut. It's a more mature, emotional collection with an intimate mood, using a delicate orchestral arrangement to frame the minutely subtle pop masterpieces *Summer*, *The Sundays* and *Well and Truly*.

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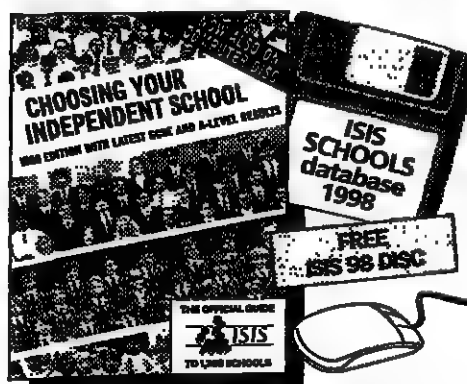
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11+ Entry 1998 OPEN AFTERNOONS

Tuesday 14th October and Wednesday 19th November 1997

4.45-6.00pm Headmistress's Talk 5.45pm (no need to book)

Parents and daughters welcome. Displays and demonstrations in all departments.

Staff and Pupils available to answer questions. Pupils to guide.

By appointment, the Headmistress will be pleased to meet with small groups of parents in her study at 9.00am. Her Headmistress's Talk will be followed by a tour of the school which will finish at 10.15 am. Please book with the Registrar.

11+ Entrance Exams will take place on Friday 16th January 1998. Several bursaries are offered by The Girls' Public Day School Trust to pupils entering Year 7. Applicants for the Music Scholarship must also sit the 11+ Exam.

7+ ENTRY 1998

Please contact the Junior School Secretary on 0171-794-7198 for a prospectus and application form.

4+ and 7+ ENTRY 1999

Lists open from 1st October 1997. Please contact the Junior School Secretary on 0171-794-7198 for a prospectus and application form.

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SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE 1998

Entrance examinations and interviews will be held on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th January 1998. There is the possibility of a Music Scholarship (half fees).

Open Afternoon: Parents and their daughters are warmly invited to meet the staff on:

Friday 10th October 1997 - 3.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Closing date for applications: 30th November 1997

FIRST YEAR ENTRANCE 1998

Entrance examinations will be held on Friday 23rd January 1998 for about 100 places in the first year, for girls whose dates of birth are between 1st September 1986 and 31st December 1987. The school offers a Music Scholarship (half fees).

Open Days: Parents and their daughters are warmly invited to visit the school on:

Monday 13th October - 4.45 p.m. - 6.45 p.m.

Thursday 6th November - 4.45 p.m. - 6.45 p.m.

Closing date for applications: 30 November 1997

Full information and a prospectus can be obtained from the Registrar, Mrs. Godolphin. All candidates must be registered and have completed application forms by the closing date.

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Open Academic Scholarship - Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 March 1998.

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For further information, contact Angus McPhail M.A., The Headmaster, Strathallan School, Forgandenny, Perthshire PH2 9EG. Tel: (01738) 812546. Fax: (01738) 812549.



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Examinations will be held at Winchester on 30 & 31 January 1998.

For application forms and further details please contact: The Headmaster's Secretary, Winchester College, College Street, Winchester SO23 9NA. Tel: 01962 621100 Fax: 01962 621106. The closing date for applications is 20 November 1997.

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Preparatory School: Headmaster's Secretary on (0117) 973 7264

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(The Head will speak at 10.15 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.)

OPEN AFTERNOON

(for Senior School only)
Thursday, 9th, October, 1997
2.30 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

(The Head will speak at 3.30 p.m.)

Sixth Form Entrance Examination

Tuesday, 21st October, 1997.

For further information please contact:

The Registrar - 01923 826825 (direct) or 01923 828511

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THE TIMES
When
school
is also
home



This state of relaxation ended three weeks ago, when cars filled up the drives, trunks were heaved into the houses and the girls embraced each other as they returned from holidays. Suddenly our home had become a school again.

Are single-sex schools the best choice?

By no means all independent schools are

● The author is secretary of the Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference

Assessed separately from the boys, the girls of Sevenoaks School in Kent would climb 16 place higher in the GCSE league.

Coeducational results turn the tables

and it has been tremendously good for the school."

The table on this page breaks down the results of the mixed schools which finished in the top 100 places in *The Times* league tables, showing the positions girls and boys would have occupied if they had been listed separately.

RANKINGS BY GENDER						
TOP MIXED SCHOOLS AT A LEVEL						
School (rank)	No of girls	Ave score	New rank	No of boys	Ave score	New rank
Westminster (8)	37	8.50	1	132	8.61	16
Rugby (32)	60	8.41	22	113	8.08	44
King's, Canterbury (40)	57	8.10	32	93	7.98	45
Sevenoaks (40)	52	8.56	18	75	7.95	46
Stockport Grammar (42)	60	8.48	20	88	7.75	51
Chesham, Sch of Music (48)	64	8.24	48	98	7.58	100
Bristol Grammar (50)	47	8.02	42	100	7.90	54
King Edward VI, Southampton (79)	27	7.24	178	96	7.87	60
Harrogate Grammar (79)	43	7.93	74	103	7.74	62
Barncroft's Sch (84)	60	7.87	88	95	7.75	77
Charterhouse (84)	38	8.08	37	120	7.58	110
TOP MIXED SCHOOLS AT GCSE						
Sevenoaks (30)	53	76.1	20	85	69.5	45
Barncroft's (42)	55	75.8	22	84	62.1	84
St Albans Grammar (50)	62	75.1	38	82	66.8	56
Newcastle under Lyme Sch (85)	50	75.4	25	82	64.9	141
Southport Grammar (86)	38	69.0	43	102	61.0	143
Stockport Grammar (82)	78	70.8	41	87	51.4	178
Chesham House (91)	78	69.1	50	91	51.4	179

Another year, another financial headache

There is no direct tax relief for parents who pay fees. In 1996 the Charity Commissioners removed the charitable status enjoyed by educational trusts. So financial advisers now recommend a range of tax-efficient financial instruments to parents, depending


The plan that parents take out will often not cover all the cost of school fees. It might cover only 60 to 70 per cent, but that would be the difference between being able to live comfortably or being on the deadline.

Stephen Whitehead, an independent financial adviser in Altrincham, Cheshire, sug-

- **Independent Schools Information Service**, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG. Tel: 0171-630 8793.
- **Invest for School Fees**, 10 Trinity Square, London EC3P 3AX. Tel: 0171-975 2472.
- **Whitehead and Partners**, St John's House, Barrington Road, Altrincham, Cheshire W14 1TW. Tel: 0161-928 2209.
- **SFIA**, Temple Chambers, 4-10 Corporation Street, High Wycombe. Bucks HP13 6TH. Tel: 01494 146601.

For your company golf day...

...it's the business



THE THREE MESSPIERSON CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE

The Three Messpierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any corporation, organisation, association or body (and its members) based in the British Isles, which holds a membership golf day in which 12 or more business players join.

How to participate

Company Registration

1. Hold a golf day involving at least 12 players and play under the Standard scoring system.
2. Complete and send the form, together with the registration fee of £250 after 1st Oct each year, before 1st Nov 2001 to: **Meess Pierson, 25th September 2001**.
3. After your golf day, clearly indicate the results of your corporate golfers, (with signed club headcovers) sent to us as soon as possible of the registration closing.
4. Golf day registered after 1st September or played after 21st September will be entered for the 2002 Challenge.

Benefits of Entry

- Your golf day featured in The Three Messpierson golf days calendar.
- Your golf day results featured in The Three Messpierson "golf days" calendar.
- All of your participants sent together for your golf day winners.
- 250 Credits in The Three awarded to the golf club on the morning of your golf day.
- A golf day management solutions program for you on your golf day.
- Corresponding copy of the Official award certificate "The Business Golfer".
- Three member free subscriptions to Golf World magazine.
- A free standardised standard award, (played or adjusted to 24).
- A list of the 100 leading players in the world for the 25 countries of your respective region. They will qualify on a basis to play in one of the National Regional Finals in October 2002.
- The winning company from each of the National Regional Finals will compete in the National Final at Royal La Manga Club, Spain in Spain in September 2002, to be filmed for a City TV broadcast.
- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in The World Corporate Golf Challenge.

Company name: _____

Name of Company Representative: _____

Position: _____ Company Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone No: _____ Facsimile: _____

Will be holding a golf day at: _____ Golf Club

Address: _____

Country: _____

_____ (Name) and will be attended by approximately _____ golfers.

If you agree and date of your golf day put in the bottom please have them on as soon as is convenient

Trophy Requirements

Please type or print clearly exactly what you would like on your trophy including punctuation, space and lower cases. We regret that personalised input cannot be incorporated into the trophy design.

Date of Golf Day: / / 2001

Company Name (Maximum 30 letters): _____

Name of Golf Club (Maximum 30 letters): _____

I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and recognise a winner to £2500 and 100 credit towards The Three Messpierson C.R.C. Please send the completed form to The Three Messpierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG5 2EL. A full letter will be sent with acknowledgment.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Rules and Conditions

A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgment on receipt of registration to give you details a copy by e-mailing the following e-mail: info@meesspierson.co.uk or by post to: Meess Pierson Ltd (which cost 40p per minute). The competition is open to all UK & Ireland for payment of registration fee £45. Tel: 01454 645457

Further Information

Meess Pierson Ltd
25th September 2001
PO Box 4, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG5 2EL
Tel: 01454 645457
Fax: 01454 645458
E-mail: info@meesspierson.co.uk

<http://www.golftoday.co.uk/threescorgolf/>

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Excellent grounds
Established Pre-preparatory School

For further details, or to arrange a visit, please contact:
The Headmaster: Dean Close Junior School, Cheltenham, Glos. GL51 6QS
The Headmaster: Dean Close School, Cheltenham, Glos. GL51 6HE
Freephone: 0800 854874

BENENDEN SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR SEPTEMBER 1998 ENTRY
Applications are invited from Lower School and Sixth Form Scholarship candidates.

LOWER SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS
Up to sixteen Academic and Music Scholarships for 11+, 12+ and 13+ candidates under the age of 14 on 1 September 1998.

SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS
Academic, Music and Art Scholarships.

For a prospectus and application form:
THE ADMISSIONS SECRETARY
BENENDEN SCHOOL
CRANBROOK
KENT TN17 4AA
TELEPHONE (01880) 289884
A Registered Charity dedicated to education No. 207524

RUGBY SCHOOL

welcomes applications for
SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS
for entrance in September 1998

Enjoy two years in a School which values its tradition, and has superb modern facilities, a friendly atmosphere and a forward-looking approach.

A substantial number of Scholarships for boys and girls is available.

A wide range of A-level subjects including Design, Business Studies, Theatre Studies, Computing, Politics and Russian is on offer.

Applications should be received by Monday 3 November 1997.

Mrs Hilary Morrish, the Registrar, will be pleased to provide further details and a prospectus.

Please telephone the Registry on 01788 537035

Rugby School is a registered charity (No. 537521)

St Swithun's School

A leading Independent Boarding, Weekly Boarding and Day School for girls.

Applications are invited for entry into our Sixth Form for 1998.

The closing date for both normal entry and for scholarships is 17th October 1997.

For further details please contact The Headmistress, St Swithun's School, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 1HA
Tel: (01962) 861316 Fax: (01962) 841874

St Swithun's School, Winchester (Registered Charity No. 307208) exists to provide education for girls aged 11 - 18 years

OLD SWINFORD STOURBRIDGE

Founded 1670 Grant Maintained since 1989

FULL OR PARTIAL BOARDING
Places: 2-1000 (ages 3-18)

- 560 boys, 370 boarders, 200 in Sixth Form
- Entry at 11, 13 and Sixth Form
- Scholarships available
- Average class size 20 below Sixth Form - 12 in Sixth Form
- At least 90% proceed to University
- Close to M4, M5, M42 and Birmingham Airport
- Boarding accommodation in small units
- Outdoor Pursuits programme at weekends

If you would like us to send a prospectus, or you wish to visit the school, please phone or write to The Admissions Secretary

OLD SWINFORD
Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 1XK
Tel: (01584) 798223 Fax: (01584) 441666
Founded 1670 Grant Maintained since 1989

REPTON SCHOOL

H.M.C. Coeducational Boarding and Day

Sixth Form SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic and Music Awards of up to 50% fees. Awards may also be enhanced in cases of financial need.

Examinations will be held on 10th and 11th November.

Please telephone: The Registrar, Repton School, Tel: (01283) 559220

Repton School is a registered educational charity

EVERY PARENT THINKS THEIR CHILD IS THE BEST ONLY NINETY A YEAR CAN BE RIGHT

For a prospectus and application form:
THE ADMISSIONS SECRETARY
REPTON SCHOOL
REPTON, DERBY
TELEPHONE (01283) 559220

HALLIFORD SCHOOL SHEPPERTON

Independent School for Boys aged 11 - 18 and Girls 16 - 18

Half term examination arrangements with St. David's School for Girls, Airedale

OPEN DAY
SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER
10.00 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING
MONDAY 10th NOVEMBER
6.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.

Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 9EX
Tel: 01952 235593
Reg. Charity No. 312090 Member: SFMS, CBA
Halliford School is a registered charity providing quality independent education

Wychwood School

Wychwood School, 74 Benbury Road, Oxford, OX3 6JZ
Tel: (01865) 567976 Fax: (01865) 566806

- Day, boarding and weekly boarding for girls, 11-18
- Broad GCSE and 'A' level curriculum
- Most girls go on to Higher Education
- Maximum class size 24 (Years 7-8)
- Smaller classes and some individual teaching for GCSE and 'A' level
- Good relationships between girls and adults
- Friendly atmosphere
- The success and happiness of the individual is paramount

Prospectus and further details from the School Secretary
Wychwood School is a Charitable Trust

MPW

Mander Portman Woodward
Independent Sixth-Form Colleges

SIXTH-FORM ENTRY FOR SEPTEMBER 1998

- ◆ Stimulating environment
- ◆ Maximum group size of seven
- ◆ Focus on exam technique
- ◆ Monthly mock exam system
- ◆ 38 A level subjects

Interviewing over Autumn half-term. Further scholarship applications held in the Christmas holidays. For a prospectus, telephone:

LONDON (Surrey) 0181 733 5555
LONDON (Kent) 0181 733 5555
BIRMINGHAM 0121 733 5555
CAMBRIDGE 01223 733 5555
BRISTOL 0117 733 5555

NORTH LONDON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

Headmistress: Mrs. Barbara McCabe BA MBA FIBA

Combines academic excellence with a broad extra-curricular programme; set in 30 acres of beautiful grounds, housed in elegant historic buildings.

Each classroom with TV, computer, VCR, VHS, Laser Disc, 30" John's Wood, Keston, Wokingham and Northern Line Underground stations nearby

OPEN DAYS
SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER AND SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Junior School: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
THE HEADMISTRESS WILL ADVISE PARENTS DURING THE MORNING

Senior School: 2.15 - 4.30 pm
HEADMISTRESS'S TALK 3.30 PM
Entry at ages 4+, 7, 11, and 16

Information about current vacancies at this Open Day
GENUINE BURSARIES AND BOTH ACADEMIC AND MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR THE SENIOR SCHOOL

Mid-week visits can be arranged by application
Cannon Drive, Egham, Middlesex, TW20 7JL
Telephone: Junior School 0181 921 1278
Senior School 0181 552 0912

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The Army Cadet Force is a unique training system. It's aimed at 11-18 year olds. It's a great way to develop your child's potential. It's a chance to learn about the Army and to experience life in the barracks. It's a chance to make friends and to have fun. It's a chance to be the best.

For a prospectus and application form:
THE ADMISSIONS SECRETARY
ARMY BE THE BEST
TELEPHONE (01880) 289884

GREENACRE SCHOOL

Invite you to meet the Headmistress and the Staff at the following events

OPEN MORNING
Saturday 4th October
10am - 12 noon
Guided Tours of the School

SIXTH FORM EVENING
Wednesday 15th October 7.30pm

Independent Day School for Girls aged 3 - 18
Sutton Lane, Beaconsfield, Surrey

For further information & a prospectus please call 01737 - 352114

Members of GSA, BGSSA, ISIS & ISBA
Greenacre is a registered charity (312024) and exists solely to provide education for girls

Malvern Girls' COLLEGE

You are cordially invited to visit us to see for yourself on one of our OPEN DAYS:

Saturday 18 October (Sixth Form)
Saturday 8 November (Middle School)
Saturday 8 November (Preparatory)

SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS
Examinations and interviews 17, 18 & 19 November 1997.

For further details and a prospectus please contact:
The Registrar 15 Avenue Road Great Malvern WR14 3BA Telephone 01684 560135
Fax 01684 566204 E mail mgc@atlas.co.uk

ST ALBANS HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Independent Church of England Day School for Girls aged 7 to 18

- High academic standards
- Wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Caring environment
- Committed to excellence
- Scholarships and Bursaries
- Coach service

OPEN MORNING
Saturday 4 October 1997
Saturday 15 November 1997

Townsend Avenue, St Albans
Herts AL1 3JZ
Tel: (01727) 853800
Admissions: (01727) 857918

Registered Charity No. 311060 The school is a registered charity which exists to provide education for girls

Ibstock Place School

Clarence Lane, Richmond, London SW15 3PY
Telephone: 0181 978 9591 Fax: 0181 978 4377
I.S.A. Coeducational Day School

Based in a Grade II listed house high in the Richmond area with excellent views.

You are invited to join us at our Senior School

Open Morning

on Saturday 4th October 1997 at 10.30am

- Outstanding 1997 GCSE results: 96.7% of our pupils achieved A* or C grades with an average of 9 subjects studied per pupil.
- A successful and expanding school, set in spacious grounds next to Richmond Park for boys and girls aged 3-16 years.
- The School has 580 pupils with a maximum class size of 24.
- We offer a wide curriculum with outstanding computing, science, humanities, arts and music facilities.
- Every child works to their full ability with a closely monitored pastoral/tutor system.

For further information please telephone:
The Registrar, Ibstock Place School, Ibstock, Leics. LE12 7JL
Tel: (01533) 583133

The School is a part of the Independent Educational Trust (No. 212279 A)

Woldingham

Headmistress: Mrs M M Phipps MA MSc BSc

Independent Boarding & Day School for 550 girls aged 11 - 18 years

- Member of worldwide network of Sacred Heart Schools (186 senior schools)
- 150 in Sixth Form
- High academic standards
- Easy access from London & airports
- Excellent boarding facilities
- Beautiful 700 acre campus

"very highly recommended"
Daily Telegraph Schools Guide

Open Afternoon

Saturday 4 October 1997
2pm - 5pm

Prospectus & Information from the Registrar
Woldingham School - Marden Park
Woldingham - Surrey CR3 7YA
Tel: 01883 349431 Fax: 01883 349653

Woldingham School, Registered Charity No. 212279 A, exists to provide high quality education for girls.

1998 Scholarships

SIXTH FORM - Girls who can demonstrate outstanding achievement and flair in any subject (including Music, Drama, Art and Design & Technology) are invited to apply for entry to Roedean via our Scholarship Examination, to be held on 6th and 7th November, 1997.

JUNIOR - Applications are invited for our Junior Scholarships (11+, 12+, 13+). The closing date for entry is 30th December and the Scholarship Examination will be on 12th, 13th and 14th January 1998.

Full details and 'Open House' invitations for Saturday 8th November are available from the Admissions Office, Roedean School, Roedean Way, Brighton, Sussex BN2 5RQ
Tel: 01273 667636 Fax: 01273 688791

Roedean School is a registered charity (No. 212279 A) and exists solely to provide education for girls.

THE ROYAL MASONIC SCHOOL

Boarding and Day School for Girls (4-18)

You are invited to visit our Open Day on

Sunday 12th October (2.00 - 5.00pm)

We offer:

- Excellent facilities and good results
- A wide range of courses
- Opportunities for all-round development
- Scholarships at 7, 11 & 16+

For further details please contact The Admissions Secretary, The Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth Park, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 6HP
Tel: 01923 773168
Email: enquiries@royalmasonic.herts.sch.uk

The Royal Masonic School exists for the advancement of education. Registered Charity No. 77094

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Top class education for boys and girls aged 13-18. Also our affiliated Preparatory School, Aberlour House for boys and girls aged 8-13.

For details of the many scholarships and bursaries, open days and entrance requirements please contact:

The Headmaster, Gordonstoun School
Elgin, Moray IV30 2RF
Tel: 01343 837837 Fax: 01343 837808
email: admin@gordonstoun.org.uk

Gordonstoun is a charitable foundation solely for educational purposes

St. Mary's School Wantage

Girls' independent boarding school (ages 11-18)

September 1998 Entry Invitation Day

For ages 11+, 12+ and 13+ Entry

Wednesday 8 October 1997

Come and experience a friendly, fun day packed with activities.

For further information please contact the Admissions Registrar, St. Mary's School, Wantage, Oxon. OX12 8BZ Tel: 01235 768023 or email: stmarys@wantage.co.uk
Registered Charity - Number 305245

Shrubbery Road, High Wycombe

Bucks. HP13 6PR

Founded 1900

IAPS BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL
Boys 3-8 years • Girls 3-13 years
420 pupils

SCHOLARSHIPS available at 8 and 11 +
OPEN MORNING 17th OCTOBER

Enquiries: The Admissions Secretary
Tel: 01494 429006 Fax: 01494 429001
e-mail: headmistress@godstowe.org

The Princess Helena College

(Founded 1828)

Independent School for Girls, aged 11 to 18 (Full Boarding, Weekly Boarding and Day)

"A modern education in a beautiful historic setting"

OPEN AFTERNOON
Saturday, 18 October 1997 from 2.00pm - 5.00pm

SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION DAY
Saturday, 8 November 1997

ENTRANCE & SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION DAY 11+
Saturday, 7 February 1998

- High academic standards
- Small classes and individual attention
- Wide choice of extra-curricular activities
- Fine facilities for learning and living
- Set in rural Hertfordshire 11 miles North of Central London

For further details and a prospectus contact:
The Admissions Secretary
The Princess Helena College, Princes Risborough, Bucks. HP27 9BT
Telephone: (01494) 432100 Fax: (01494) 434997
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Co-Educational Boarding and Day School for 12 to 18 year olds

Full boarding - affordable @ £5KPA - YES, £5KPA!

OPEN DAY FOR BOARDERS ON SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER

OR VISIT US AT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS '97
N E C BIRMINGHAM 3RD, 4TH, 5TH, OCTOBER
STAND 40 C

apply for details to:
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The King's Hospital
Palmerston, Dublin 20, Ireland
Phone: 00 353 1 6266933

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The appointment is for three years from 1 January 1998, or earlier as agreed. The starting salary will be in the region of £50,000 with incentive bonuses in later years.

Further particulars of the post are available from:

- Academic Registrar's Office, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB
- telephone 0171 477 8011
- fax 0171 477 8886 or
- email: M.J.Akaiy-Walsh@city.ac.uk

quoting reference 169/ST.

Closing date for applications is Friday 24 October 1997.

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Following the retirement of Ian Heyland, the present College Principal

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- Your personal qualities should include proven leadership and management skills, commercial acumen, energy and enthusiasm. An Educational background is not necessarily essential.



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Further details and application pack are available from:
John King, Clerk to the Corporation
Brinsbury College, North Heath, Pulborough, West Sussex BN20 1DL
Telephone 01798 578552

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Trinity and All Saints University College

Trinity and All Saints is an independent Catholic University College which offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses leading to the award of degrees and diplomas of the University of Leeds.

Further particulars and application forms to be returned by 21 October 1997, are obtainable from the Clerk to the Governors Trinity and All Saints Brownerrie Lane Horsthorpe LS18 5HD

Answerphone: (0113) 283 7171
E-mail: saoulson@lanc.ac.uk

Upon the retirement of the present Principal, applications are invited for the post of

PRINCIPAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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Next programme commences November 1997.

To find out how our Executive MBA programme can benefit you, we are holding the following -

Information Evening

Thursday 2 October, 6.30 - 8.0 pm

For further information please contact Julian Overton on (0115) 948 6198, or Fax: (0115) 948 6512.



Nottingham Business School

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Bedaes School Petersfield Hampshire GU32 2DG

HEAD OF DUNHURST (BEDALES JUNIOR SCHOOL)

Coeducational Boarding/Day 5-13 IAPS

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Applications, together with CV's and names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees, should be submitted by Friday 10 October to Alison Willocks, Head of Bedales, who will be pleased to supply further details.

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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA Philadelphia, USA THORNTON AWARDS Under the Foundation of Sir John Thornton and the late Lady (Evelyn DuPont) Thornton, applications are invited before 21 October 1997 from unmarried UK graduates for TEN AWARDS each of the value of \$1,247 per month, plus annual tuition fees of around \$14,000 and tenable for one or two years from 1 September 1998 at the postgraduate level in any recognised department of study in the UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, USA. Prospective applicants should send a stamped (25p) and addressed 10" x 7" envelope to Mr J.M. Black, Thornton Awards, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ.

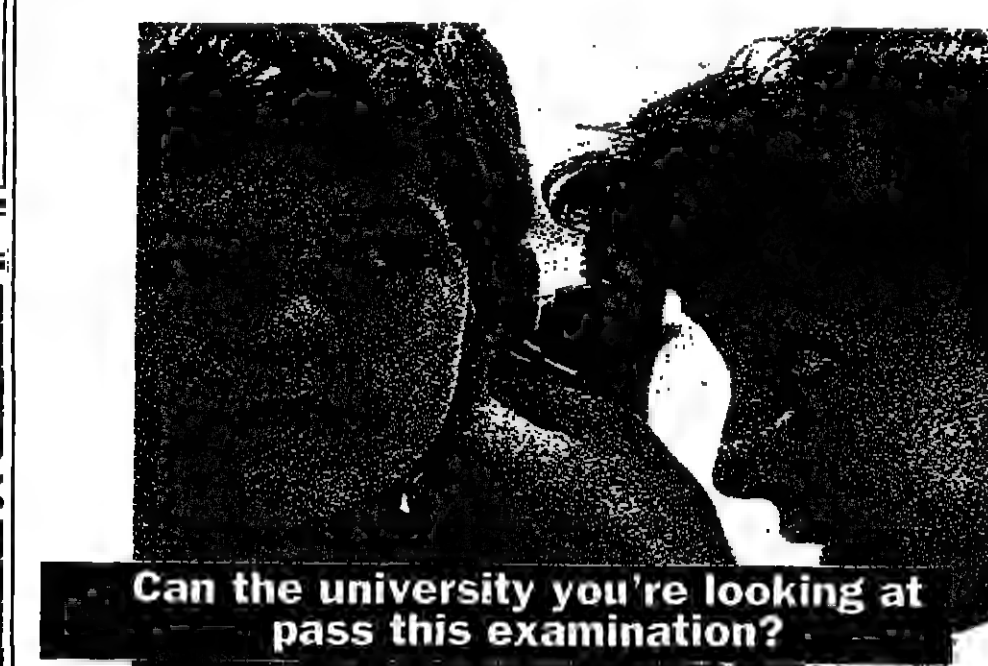
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Take a close look at St. George's University School of Medicine. Here's what you'll find:
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■ 88% pass rate for 1st-time takers in June 1996 United States Medical Licensing Exam, Part I
■ Safe, friendly environment conducive to learning
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Scot can atone for Augusta mauling

Montgomerie gets his wish with Woods rematch

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN AT VALDERRAMA

COLIN MONTGOMERIE'S dearest wish has been granted. He will be able to look deep into the soft brown eyes of Tiger Woods on the first tee this morning and detect whether the American has the strength of character to respond to the unique challenge of a Ryder Cup debut.

The huge galleries drawn by golf's latest icon will be an irrelevant, mere background noise. Montgomerie, who partners Bernhard Langer against Woods and Mark O'Meara in the final four-ball match of the day, will reduce the contest to an acutely personal level.

He has chosen to invert reality, to find something soothing in his third-round collapse in the Masters at Augusta, when he was relegated to the role of roadsweeper at the coronation of Woods. This is his chance for redemption, his opportunity to restore global respect.

Principally, though, he has a warped compulsion to repay. Montgomerie has not forgotten the withering stare that Woods reserved for him as he arrived on the first tee for that fateful third round, when the American established a nine-shot lead. It was a mute declaration of war, a signal of intensity that must be matched.

"All I've heard for months is Ryder Cup, Ryder Cup, Ryder Cup," Montgomerie said. "Not a day has gone by without me being forced to talk about it, think about it. You try to convince yourself you're bored with all the hype, but deep down you know it provides the buzz you are looking for."

"Now it's finally here. I want Tiger. This isn't Augusta. It's best to avoid him there. He's like Thomas Muster on a clay court. It's his home. But Valderrama is different. This is my home. I've won here. Now we'll see if Tiger can play on my grass court."

Tweaking a tiger's tail is a dangerous exercise, but it is



Ryder Cup '97

the essence of this Ryder Cup. Golf may be a non-contact sport, governed by gentlemanly conventions, but it does not need theatrical rage or thugish behaviour to project raw aggression. It is there, registered in a glance or a gasp.

"I hate to lose more than I love to win," Montgomerie, who is on the verge of winning the European order of merit for the fifth successive year, said. "That's why I've been so successful. One man cannot win this competition by himself, because we are not playing as individuals, but we all draw distinctive things from ourselves."

Matchplay shines a searchlight into a player's soul. It highlights strengths, underlines weaknesses. Montgomerie was hyperventilating when he completed his Ryder Cup singles debut at Kiawah Island in 1991, winning the final four holes to steal a half



Montgomerie respect

from Mark Calcavecchia. The memory is burned in his brain. "You can detect weakness," he said. "You see a guy fold emotionally in front of you, sense when he has nothing more to give. Tony Jacklin said to me, as I walked towards the 18th tee against Calcavecchia: 'You've only got to stand up to win this hole.' He was right. You could see Mark had gone."

"The eyes give you away, especially on short putts. I can remember Davis Love III putting up to less than two feet from the hole when we were paired in the final round of the US Open. It looked a formality, but I noticed him shoot a look at his brother, Mark, who was caddying for him. His eyes were empty."

"I whispered to my caddy: 'This ball is not going in.' He said: 'What do you mean?' He can't miss. But sure enough he never looked like hitting it. I've learnt from that. Now, in matchplay, I think twice about conceding a putt, especially when I sense the other guy is expecting me to do just that."

This is the type of advice that he will dispense when, as he expects, he is paired with one of Europe's five rookies over the next two days. Though his motivation has a powerful intimacy, he is ready to respond to the wider responsibilities of his seniority.

"Seve Ballesteros, the Europe captain, feels it is time I did for someone what Nick Faldo did for me," he said. "He gave me a lot of advice, but the No 1 thing he always told me was to remember that no matter how nervous I was, the other guy was just as nervous. You always think you are the only one who is suffering. You can't play this game when you're uptight."

You must be self-contained, self-confident. You must possess an instinctive ability to condense and channel your energy. Ultimately, in the Ryder Cup, it all comes down to who blinks first.

Spaniards prove masters of ceremony

LYNNE TRUSS

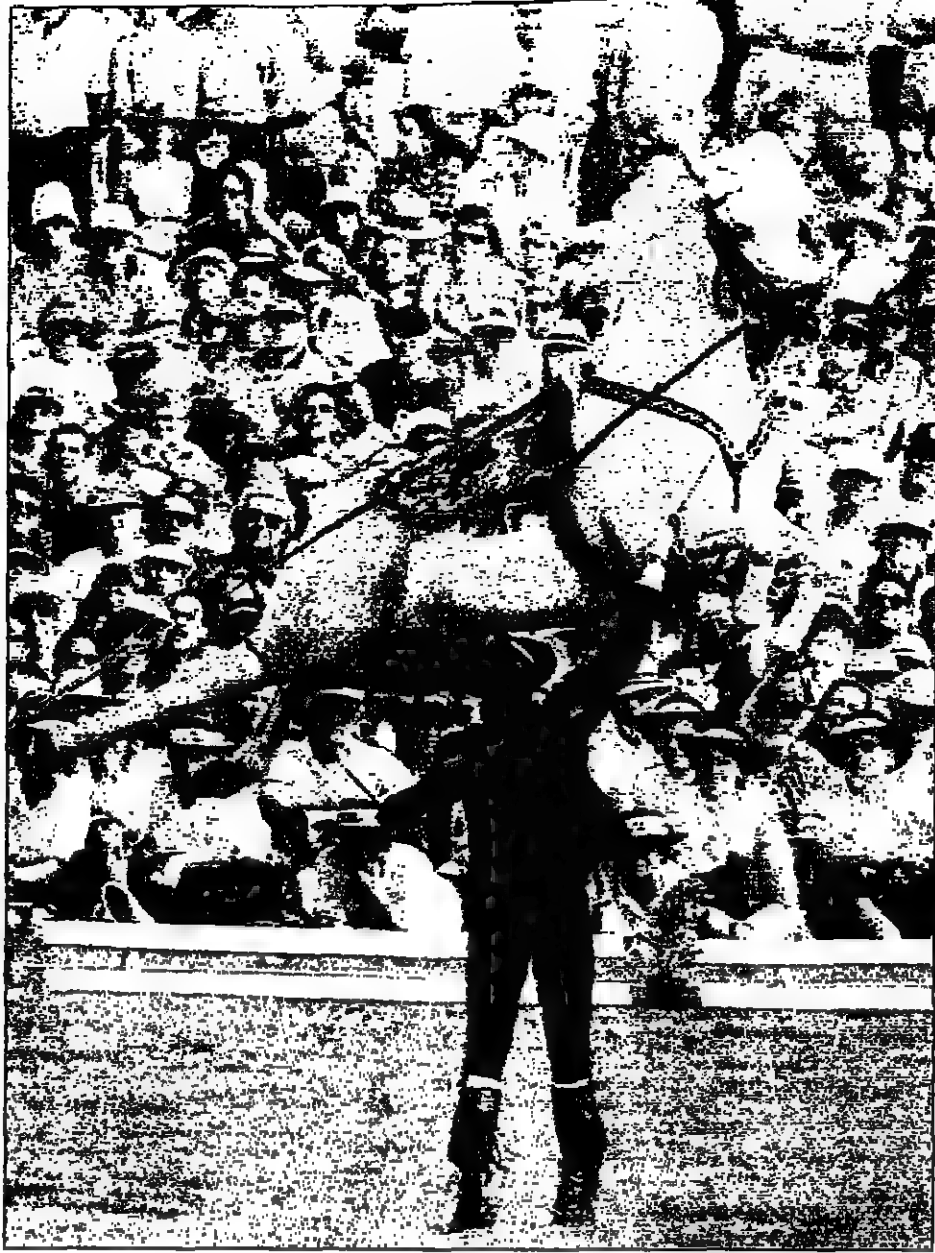


At Valderrama

Pauses for applause were built in to the order of ceremonies at Valderrama yesterday afternoon. "Lorenzo Mila introduces the Symphony Orchestra and Choir of Malaga," the programme said, "and thanks them for their introductory music — pauses for applause." Nice to know that nothing was being left to chance. The schedule featured such precise landmarks as "4.26pm (teams enter)", "4.53pm (Tom Kite introduces his team)" and "5.11pm (naval band of San Fernando strikes up first note)". I've never specified 5.11 in my life. It just goes to show how hard everybody is trying.

A splendid event this was, actually. The sun shone, a light wind rocked the cork trees lining the practice ground (the chosen arena), proud equestrian women in vivid flamenco dresses hitched backseat lifts on haughty Andalusian steeds, and it was like Barcelona all over again, only without the fireworks and the internationally-renowned artists. In advance of the ceremony, we worried that it would be embarrassingly excessive — orchestra, strollers, naval band, royalty, ceremonial flag-raising, and a parade of the golfers' wives — but in the event it was excellent mainly for its restraint and dignity.

The teams came out at 4.26, or thereabouts. They looked great, especially Seve. Fred Couples blew kisses to the crowd, many of whom probably returned them. As always, the co-ordination of shirt, tie and jacket was suggestive of a lot of people who made identical mistakes getting



On the hoof: prancing horses added to the spectacle of the opening ceremony

dressed in the dark, but at least the Europeans wore a rich royal blue, as opposed to the dull khaki of the Americans. Imagine the difference between peacocks and peahens and you'll get the idea.

Introduced by their captains (at 4.53pm and 5pm) they stood up and waved. Tom Kite announced his team in alphabetical order, in hammy cadences familiar from Tony, the Frodies tiger ("Hee-ere's Freddy!" you half-expected from him to say). It was a clever idea. When he got to the alphabetical conclusion, I believe he actually prefaced his announcement with that old showman's injunction "Wait

for it". "From Orlando, Florida!" (pause) "Ti-i-i-gers Woods!" Perhaps he could have been less showbiz about it, but what the hell. The players smiled and waved, and Phil Mickelson did his cute Hugh Grant impression.

The European roll-call was less expansive but the guys were evidently gratified and slightly embarrassed by the cheering, especially when the Spaniards in the crowd demanded that Olazabal stand up a second time. The climax of the European list was, of course, Nick Faldo (cheers, but if it was a popularity contest, he lost hands down to Woods. Oddly, he made that flat, pushing

gesture with his hand that means "Calm down, that's enough," before sitting down and replacing his sunglasses.

What a pleasant way to spend an afternoon, with the sun baking your back and your trusty periscope always to hand. Celebrity spotting didn't take up too much time — especially if you weren't Spanish. The Duke of York was here, as everybody knew, and a gossip whisper of "Who's that woman he's with?" was met by a general don't-know-can't-see. In the VIP car park, incidentally, there is a two-foot high "HRR" sign fashioned out of tin-foil, which has the devotional, made-it-myself ap-

pearance of a roadside shrine, but in fact (we have deduced) has something to do with the Duke's special parking space.

Having never seen the Ryder Cup officially opened before, the event yesterday seemed just right. What an inspiration to have horses do the job normally done by the Red Arrows, weaving in and out of each other, criss-crossing without colliding. These beasts do not trail red or blue smoke but on the other hand can do bunny-hops while standing up on their hind legs, and can bounce from hoof to hoof while stationary, in a manner suggestive of hot coals.

How Jimmy Patino felt about all this is hard to guess. Patino is the grass-obsessed owner of Valderrama, who

'It was excellent mainly for its restraint and dignity'

famously rises before dawn to supervise the groundsman (the lawnmowers have headlights) while personally trimming the greens with nail scissors; rumour has it that he knows each blade of grass by name. And new big nags were churning up his turf.

Anyway, the point is, the event is now officially underway: no going back, that's it. As the flags of the participating countries were raised to the sound of their national anthems, we all studied the players' reactions displayed on a jumbo screen, and got a bit snuffy. Suddenly the phony war was over: this was real. Faldo mouthed the words during the British national anthem: Lee Westwood's face just crumpled — the lad was stricken, not to say overwhelmed.

So those scheduled moments for applause turned out to be redundant. We applauders are as professional as the golfers in our own small way, and we know when a horse (for example) is doing something it would really rather not. We know that in the next three days these guys are going to do the most heroic thing anyone ever does with a golf club in their hand: Fantastic.

Hole story that drives players to fury

Mel Webb takes a wary look at Valderrama's dreaded 17th, which has been turned into a place of fear and loathing

It is the hole from Hades. It is the 17th at Valderrama and it has been worked on, revamped and fiddled with continually over the years. In its latest incarnation it is the work of Severiano Ballesteros, no less. And still the players hate it.

It is 511 yards of trouble and strife because of the problems it presents, and its location, it is also the hole that might decide the Ryder Cup. Beyond doubt, it is a good matchplay hole, but it is a fair one? Ballesteros says it is; everybody else disagrees.

The hole has come in for all sorts of opprobrium in its time. In its original form it was a tedious, unreachable par five to an elevated green that nobody could see when lining up the third shot. Robert Trent Jones Sr, the distinguished and controversial American designer of Valderrama, tends to polarise opinions, but this time he did not — nobody liked the 17th.

Then there was the Patino factor. Jaime Ortiz-Patino, the owner of the club, had had a love affair with Augusta National for years and he saw in this hole the opportunity to create something similar to the 15th there. What Patino wants, he gets.

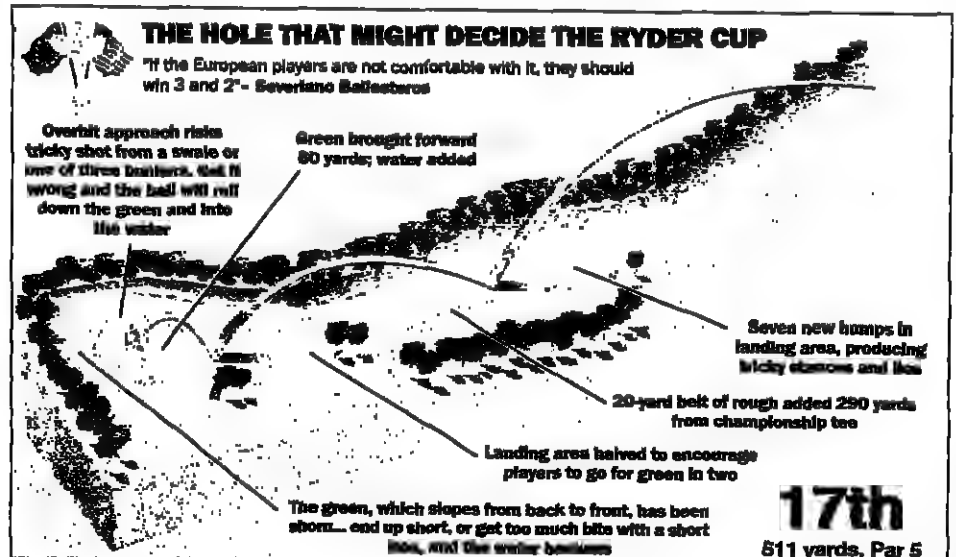
The man chosen to give the hole a facelift was Ballesteros,

who, not being one to do things by halves, brought the green down the hill and put water in front of it and also shortened it by 60 yards. If he had stopped there, the hole might not have become the object of loathing it is today. However, with his next move, establishing a 20-yard belt of thick rough 290 yards from the championship tee, he started a

ball of criticism that is still rolling, unabated, to this day. Not content with that, Ballesteros tinkered again in 1995 by building seven humps in the landing area off the drive to produce all sorts of tricky stances and lies. He then halved the width of the landing area on the second shot to encourage players to go for the green in two. What he

forgot was that not everybody is as adventurous as he is.

To make things even more difficult, the front of the green, which slopes down from back to front, was short, so the brave going for it in two and hitting marginally short, or the prudent going in with a short iron and getting too much bite, end up in the same place — *agua*.



For those who play safe by hitting to the back of the green, an overhit approach will go into a swale or one of three bunkers. If that happens, great delicacy of touch is needed if the ball is not to roll down the shallow green — and into the water.

Satisfied with his work, Ballesteros went away. Plenty of people wish he had not turned up in the first place. Colin Montgomerie is one. "The man who designed it may be the best player who ever lived, but he is no course designer," he said. "It's the worst hole we play all year — the worst in Europe." Sam Torrance agrees. "Shaving the bank is just sadistic," he said. "The third shot is the scariest chip in golf."

Unsurprisingly, Ballesteros defends his creation. "What is the difference between having the rough in the middle of the fairway or having a ditch or a bunker?" he said. "The hole is reachable in two with an iron, but it is not an easy shot. Why should it be?"

"If you hit a par five in two it should be because you have hit two fabulous shots and not merely because you can hit the ball a long way. It takes skill to control a long shot over water to a distant green. I am very proud of what I have done here. I think it is a great hole."

Kite calls on trusted friend for role of right-hand man

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES

DENNIS SATYSHUR will not be the man in the headlines at the Ryder Cup this week — unless something goes horribly wrong — but the 47-year-old professional from the Caves Valley club in Owings Mills, near Baltimore will be an important cog in the United States' match effort.

Satyshur is simply called Football by Tom Kite, the old friend who rang him up last year and asked him if he would be his assistant at Valderrama. The story goes that Satyshur said he would be delighted, put the phone down, then rang Kite back to say, "Did I hear you right?"

Satyshur — the name is Slovak-Russian in origin — was a quarterback at Duke University, where he was also on the golf team, and he and Kite roomed together when they played in the Tour qualifying school in 1972. It was Kite who came up with the nickname because he could not easily get his tongue round the surname (if you break it down into three bits — Sat-shur — then run them together again quickly, you have the pronunciation, more or less).

Kite went on to great things

on the course and Satyshur became a club professional. He was at Five Farms in Baltimore — where Liselotte Neumann won the US Women's Open in 1988 — before he moved to Caves Valley, where he is the director of golf.

Satyshur's position as Kite's assistant in Spain is not an official one but his existence is not in doubt — he even has his own buggy, a bright red model with the words "assistant captain" on its bonnet — although his own preference is to keep a low profile. "Let's just focus on the matches," he said yesterday, horrified at the thought that he might be the subject of any attention.

That is one of the reasons why Kite picked him. For Satyshur is no egotist. He is a pleasant, unassuming man with an eye for detail and his role is that of the trusted, ultra-reliable, efficient No 2. His job is to do whatever the captain wants him to do, to be an extra pair of eyes and ears. Severiano Ballesteros has Tommy Horton, Mark James and Miguel Angel Jimenez on similar duty. His buggy is filled with water, soft drinks,

chocolate, towels, all the supplies that might be needed during the course of a long, hot, tense day. Anything that helps the players, Satyshur is there to do.

That the captain, meticulous to a fault, has picked Satyshur for this vital, if anonymous task speaks volumes for his qualities. Blowing his own trumpet is not the Satyshur style but some of his members are here and they have no such inhibitions.

"He's the perfect guy for the job," Barbara Shapiro said. "He's so even-tempered and calm. He's good at sizing up a person and he'd have a good feel for putting the right players together."



Ryder Cup 1997

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Captains take different strokes to achieve their ultimate goal

Rob Hughes believes the personalities of the Ryder Cup team leaders could be vital to the outcome

THEY sleep under the same roof of the San Roque hotel, but they are worlds apart in temperament and style. Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe team captain, and Tom Kite, captain of the United States team, are non-playing leaders of their continents this weekend. Non-playing is the biggest misnomer imaginable; they have rehearsed and rehearsed, every hole, every pairing, every last putt of this Ryder Cup more times than many of us have breakfast.

This impotence could be harmful to their health, particularly to Ballesteros. Shortly after 4.30am yesterday, restless and with the fires burning inside him, he awoke. Shortly afterwards he telephoned his pal and Ryder Cup assistant, Miguel Angel Jimenez, and invited him to his suite to select the opening fourballs. Ballesteros could not hide the pressure and the pain of choosing the men who would play today.

Across in the American wing, Kite was sleeping, he said, like a baby. He had already known his selections two days in advance, though he told the players only yesterday morning.

It is this contrast between the two captains that could prove decisive. In their different ways, they have first to control themselves and then seek to impart their knowledge and experience to their teams. Talk to the men who will play for them over the next 72 hours and you learn of Kite's "tedious and grinding" thoroughness, and of Ballesteros's fiery inspiration.

Mark O'Meara, the American who used the word "tedious" about his team captain, marvels at the thoroughness with which Kite, a studious Texan who could pass for a banker in his spectacles, collated 300 days of the Valderrama weather and analysed the strength and direction of the wind. Whatever the captain gleans from that homework, he must sparingly impart to his team, for they, after all, must swing a club and need free minds to be able to do so.

Ballesteros, by comparison, offers principally himself — his ferocious drive, renowned for peaking against Americans, his energy, his emotion. To Colin Montgomerie, Europe's

outstanding player, Ballesteros said yesterday: "Colin, don't feel you have the obligation to win all the points. Just play. Relax. And if the team wins, it's great for all of us."

On the first tee this morning, what will Ballesteros say to the rookies? "I tell the rookies," Ballesteros, mispronouncing the word, said, "try to be focused. Relax. Enjoy. And good luck."

Relax, he says. If only Ballesteros could, reduced to anxiety by the onus upon him, not merely of following in the footsteps of Ryder Cup greats, but in inaugurating the tournament in his homeland. Reduced to four hours sleep a night and reducing his lieutenant, Jimenez, to the same fretful state. How can he ensure that that nervousness is not transmitted?

It could be the key to the tournament. Ballesteros, by the way he moves, by the sheer feline grace of his left frame, seems to dwarf the 5ft 8in Texan, but not in demeanour, not in background, not in the commodity that

raised Kite to Ryder Cup-player status in 1979, the same year that Ballesteros made his debut.

There is something about a man who, less naturally imbued, works his way to the fore. At the press conference, Kite sat with a purposefully relaxed style. The Americans are practised in front of the camera and the smile that Kite wore yesterday, the confidence he espoused in every member of his team, was radiant.

He delivered his line-up moments after Ballesteros had revealed Europe's, and he paused for dramatic effect before announcing: "In the last of the four pairings, against Colin Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer, I had Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara... I can see the buzz around you all. It is an exciting fourball. We'll find out whether Colin was accurate in his assessment of Tiger's game."

He was playing on the psychology with which Montgomerie had earlier sought to mount pressure on the 21-year-old American phenomenon. Ballesteros could play the same game. There is something reminiscent of Terry Venables in the expressiveness of the Spaniard: the arched eyebrow, the rapid quip to evade a serious question.



Ballesteros guides Darren Clarke, who is making his Ryder Cup debut, through his final practice round. Photograph: Tim Matthews/Allsport

Asked how Montgomerie would cope with the toruous slowness of his partner, Langer, Ballesteros responded: "If we put Langer on for the first match at 9 o'clock, we would probably all miss lunch. I think, perhaps, Colin has to walk a little bit slower."

While Kite then retired to freewheel among his men, Ballesteros broadened the base of his purpose and his concerns. "I want to say something really significant," he announced. "It's really unfortunate that the trade union of the police intend to hold a meeting at San Roque when the Ryder Cup opens. Maybe the representatives for the Spanish police are right [in their cause

for improved pay], but this is not the right time to do these demonstrations. I'm a bit disappointed, because we are bringing with this Ryder Cup a lot of good things to our country. We are being watched by 700 million people around the world. I would like them to reflect, to pick some other time, some other place. This will be seen as the Spanish nation hurting ourselves."

Self-wounding is a Latin theme. The Italians fear it before the forthcoming World Cup qualifying match in football against England. And some, watching Ballesteros, undoubtedly the core of Europe teams past, wonder if his strength, the flame of his passion, could, indeed, become self-wounding.

HOCKEY

Ipswich pursue pleasure

By Cathy Harris

AFTER stumbling at the final hurdle in their efforts to capture the women's premier division title last season, Ipswich have adopted a different approach this year. "We're going to enjoy playing," Lucy Youngs, their new captain, said. "And we've taken the pressure of ourselves by not mentioning a thing about winning the league or the cup."

"It's ironic we're playing Trojans tomorrow because that's where we blew it and the season ended on a terribly flat note." The 2-2 draw not only ended Ipswich's hopes but helped the Southampton-based team avoid relegation.

"We have three experienced players who won't always be available because they work shifts," she said. "Any injuries could really throw us." Two police officers — Sarah Barnfield, a forward, and Nicky Osborne, the reserve goalkeeper — plus Debbie Rawlinson, a midfielder player, will be regular absentees, while Vickie Dixon, the former England and Great Britain international, is uncertain about her future.

Pete Atwell, the Clifton coach, said he was confident that Kath James, the former Trojans striker, will be fit after recovering from glandular fever to play some part against the newcomers, Olton. Sally Wright, a penalty-corner specialist, returns for the Warwickshire side, whose coach, Gavin Featherstone, has resolved to keep a lower profile after receiving an official warning last week after his comments from the sideline directed at the Olton players and the umpires.

England will take on the Olympic silver medal winners, South Korea, at Milton Keynes on November 1. The match will be televised on Grandstand and all National League fixtures have been postponed.

TENNIS

Rafter survives the lean years to dream again

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN MUNICH

PATRICK RAFTER is an escalating presence at the top of the tennis hierarchy. As has been evident in his two matches here this week, winning the US Open has added a measure of self-belief to his many virtues. Having dismantled Thomas Muster on Wednesday, he followed up yesterday with a convincing dismissal of Marcelo Rios to enter the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. Poor Rios did not play badly; it was just his misfortune to meet Rafter at his formidable best.

Rafter, 24, has come through at exactly the right time. In nine months, his world ranking has advanced 60 places to No 3 — although his awe of Pete Sampras may prevent him usurping the perennial leader by the year's end. Michael Chang, the world No 2, has failed to dislodge Sampras but Rafter should prove a more difficult impostor to keep at bay.

Rafter certainly has the artillery to rattle Sampras's defences. A penetrative service and excellent volleying skills form the core of his arsenal but Rafter has now developed consistency in his groundstrokes. This he displayed in abundance against Rios, a baseline specialist whose discomfort at the net proved an insurmountable handicap. In winning half of his ten service

games to love, Rafter, who prevailed 6-1, 7-6, never allowed his Chilean opponent the scent of a break.

To record that Rafter has earned \$1.275 million (about £850,000) for winning in New York and reaching the Grand Slam Cup semi-finals is to ignore the likelihood of further progress here.

It is no less than he deserves, having been burdened with excessive expectation when a teenage prodigy in Australia. The dream turned nasty on him two years ago, when a serious wrist injury stopped him in his tracks.

"Over the years I've learned to appreciate tennis," he said. "There were a couple of years where I was very frustrated, a bit of a miserable bastard on the court. I just wasn't enjoying the game." Now he has resurrected himself to heights that have surprised him. "The weirdest thing [about winning the US Open] is that I still don't feel like I did it. I still don't believe it happened. I never realised I could play that well."

Those thoughts suggest that Rafter has further progress to make in the realm of self-belief. He is a rare Australian: one whose opinion of his merit is understated. "I think Sampras is well above the rest of us," he said yesterday. Such reverence will not help him run down Sampras, who mastered an exhausted Rafter in their Davis Cup rubber last week.

Perhaps Rafter will have cause to raise his sights. His route to the final is blocked by Petr Korda, who overcame Cedric Pioline in straight sets yesterday. Should Rafter prevail, there is every prospect of him meeting Sampras in the final on Sunday.

The occasion would mark the meeting of the world's best two players in a fitting conclusion to a tournament that has so far failed to fire the imagination.

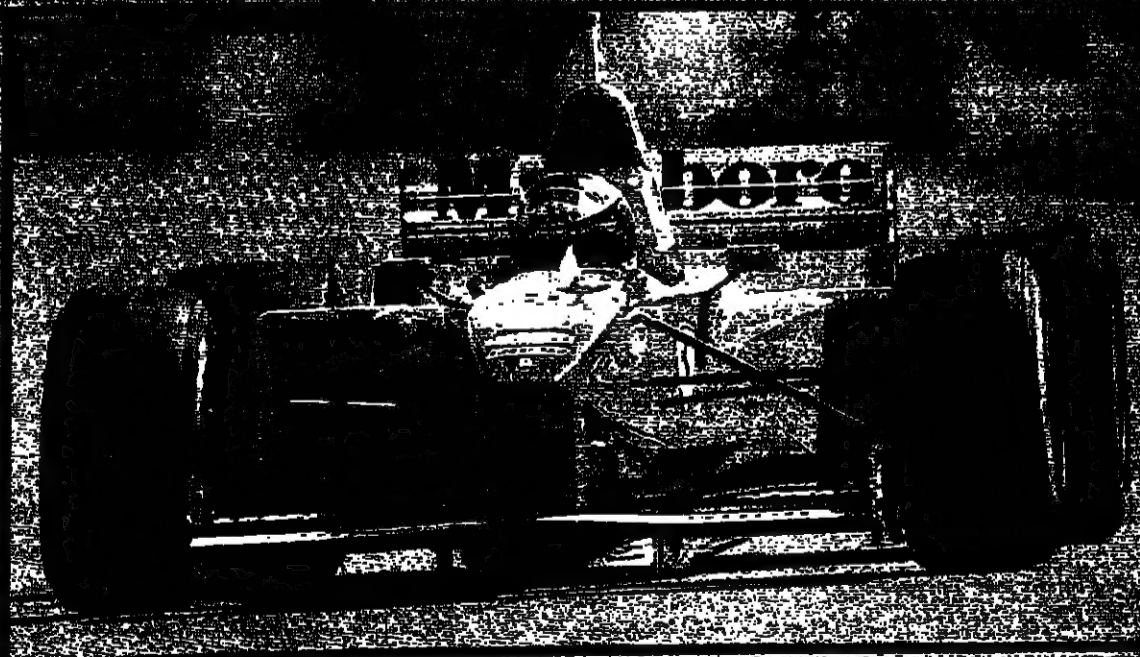


Rafter: growing presence

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THE PRIZE: The manager with the best team score after the European Grand Prix on October 5 will win £25,000. The manager with the best score at the Luxembourg Grand Prix will win a trip for two to next year's British GP. The manager-up will receive a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game.

HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED IN AUSTRIA

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole J Villeneuve 30 points; 2nd M Hakkinen 25; 3rd J Trulli 24; 4th H-H Frenzen 23; 5th R Barrichello 22; 6th J Magnussen 21; 7th D Hill 20; 8th E Irvine 19; 9th M Schumacher 18; 10th D Coulthard 17; 11th R Schumacher 16; 12th J Herbert 15; 13th G Morbidelli 14; 14th G Fisichella 13; 15th J Alesi 12; 16th S Nakano 11; 17th P Diniz 10; 18th G Berger 9; 19th U Katayama 8; 20th J Verstappen 7. Finishing points (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st J Villeneuve 60 points; 2nd D Coulthard 50; 3rd H-H Frenzen 40; 4th G Fisichella 30; 5th R Schumacher 29; 6th M Schumacher 28; 7th D Hill 27; 8th J Herbert 26; 9th G Morbidelli 25; 10th G Berger 24; 11th U Katayama 23; 12th J Verstappen 22; 13th P Diniz 21; 14th R Barrichello 20. (Only 14 were classified. P Diniz and R Barrichello were classified although they did not finish the race.)

Improvement from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place): G Fisichella 30 points; G Berger 24; D Coulthard 24; J Verstappen 24; U Katayama 24; R Schumacher 18; J Herbert 12; P Diniz 12; G Morbidelli 12; M Schumacher 9; H-H Frenzen 3.

Fastest lap time of grand prix J Villeneuve 10 points. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): G Berger -10 points. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted): E Irvine -10 points; J Alesi -10; M Hakkinen -10; R Barrichello -10; M Salo -10; J Trulli -10; P Diniz -10; S Nakano -10; J Magnussen -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): none. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

CONSTRUCTORS: Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Williams 30 points; McLaren 25; Jordan 23; Ferrari 21; Arrows 20; Sauber 19; Benetton 17; Minardi 16; Tyrrell 15; Stewart 13. Penalty points Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): Benetton -10 points. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Prost -20; Stewart -20; Ferrari -10; McLaren -10; Benetton -10; Arrows -10; Tyrrell -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): none. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

With up to 600 bonus points available in tomorrow's Luxembourg Grand Prix for the managers who correctly predict the first three drivers to cross the finishing line, the race for our £25,000 top prize is still wide open. Heading our leaderboard is A Bradley of Godalming, Surrey. His team, Slickhead 3, scored 846 points at the Austrian Grand Prix to take his cumulative score in the competition to 10,297 points. Hot on his tail in second position is P Waite from Cheltenham. His team, Waite Racing F1, scored 880 points in Austria to take his total to 10,098 in the competition. D Coolican of London E14 (Coolspart, 10,061 points), L Ackland of Guildford (Aston O, 10,027 points) and L Dawson of East Cotes, Isle of Wight (Parkhurst Racing, 10,002) are all poised to take advantage of any slip-ups in the final three grands prix. S Jones of Harrow, Middlesex, wins a trip

for two to next year's British GP. His team, G Force Geologies, scored 972 points in Austria. J Smith of Callington, Cornwall (team name Treningo) scored 967 points to win a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game. **TRANSFERS:** Change up to four selections before the Japanese Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday, October 9. **CHECK YOUR SCORE:** Check your score and position by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK). **CLARIFICATION:** Rule 2 applies to the transfers and replacements on the table below. All cumulative figures have been adjusted as a consequence of M Hakkinen's late disqualification from third position in the Belgian GP. The cumulative figure for Prost published after the Canadian Grand Prix has been adjusted downwards by 10 points as his car did not finish the race.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	Slickhead 3	A Bradley	10297
2	Waite Racing F1	P Waite	10098
3	Coolspart	D Coolican	10061
4	Aston O	L Ackland	10027
5	Parkhurst Racing	L Dawson	10002
6	JB1	I Rock	9980
7	The Tigglers	R Roberts	9979
8	Cathy's Clowns	C Robinson	9979
9	Bezzotti Racing	A Scott	9979
10	F1 Erb	S Erhorn	9979
11	Dow Jones 2	I Dowdy	9970
12	Pinkeys Racing	K Ward	9955
13	Scuderia Vincitore	S Lorenti	9953
14	Bet A Ton	M Dymond	9953
15	No Hoppers	P Zeinalabedini	9947
16	Cartell Racing	S Dimetto	9943
17	Gwilt F1	D G Gwilt	9940
18	Scuderia Vitulli	Mr Vitulli	9935
19	Sour Mash	R Owers	9925
20	Barney One	B Lynn	9923
21	Smith-Astra	D Smith	9923
22	Ann's Spitfires	A Earling	9915
23	Toms Tankers	T Reynolds	9907
24	Dragon Racing	R Davis	9896
25	Will And Nerve	A Mewes	9896
26	Formula Uno	P Tabone	9896

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Austrian GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

DRIVERS		
GROUP A	GROUP B	
01 D Hill 118 990	13 J Trulli 72 1486	
02 M Schumacher 128 1702	14 J Verstappen 122 919	
03 J Villeneuve 171 1483	15 U Katayama 124 863	
04 E Irvine 47 1216	16 P Diniz 100 727	
05 J Alesi 39 1475	17 R Rosset 0 0	
06 G Berger 117 1248	18 R Schumacher 134 1013	
07 M Hakkinen 16 1018	19 G Fisichella 144 1367	
08 D Coulthard 162 1209	20 S Nakano 58 999	
09 R Barrichello 66 719	21 G Morbidelli 122 1258	
10 H-H Frenzen 137 1269	22 T Marques 0 828	
11 J Herbert 124 1184	23 J Magnussen 69 711	
12 M Salo 38 1056	24 V Sospiri 0 0	
CONSTRUCTORS		
GROUP C	GROUP D	
25 Williams 30 205	31 Arrows 10 -34	
26 Ferrari 11 240	32 Sauber 19 159	
27 McLaren 15 129	33 Tyrrell 5 -9	
28 Benetton -3 247	34 Minardi 16 48	
29 Jordan 23 147	35 Stewart -7 -117	
30 Prost -20 123	36 Lola 0 0	

Jarno Trulli of Minardi replaces Olivier Panis in the Prost team. Tiano Marques replaces Trull at Minardi and at Sauber Gianni Morbidelli, who originally replaced Nicola Larini, replaces Fontana.

FANTASY FORMULA ONE TRANSFER LINE: 0891 555 994

+44 990 100 394 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls). For inquiries call 01582 702 720, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm

MOTOR RACING: CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER HOPING TO RECREATE HIS FINEST HOUR

Schumacher relishes challenge

FROM RICHARD HOBSON
AT THE NÜRBURGRING

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER was physically sick on Monday. It was all down to a bout of flu that had taken hold before the weekend, he stressed yesterday, lest anyone should imagine the illness was prompted by his mistake in the 99th mile of the 24-hour race, which has ensured a thrilling climax to the world drivers' championship.

The Luxembourg Grand Prix here on Sunday provides Schumacher with his hundredth race in Formula One, but his error in the 99th mile ultimately proves the most costly of his glorious six-year career.

While lying third in the Austrian Grand Prix he failed to notice a yellow flag, waved to warn him of an

accident during the race, and was ordered to serve a ten-second stop-go penalty. Schumacher came in sixth and, consequently, his lead in the championship over Jacques Villeneuve, who won in Austria, was cut to one point. Consensus suggests that the Williams-Renault of the Canadian driver is better equipped for the remaining three races than the German's Ferrari.

It is easy to recall the finale to the 1994 season when Schumacher, then driving for Benetton, took a one-point lead over Damon Hill, of Williams-Renault, into the final race in Adelaide. On that occasion, of course, Schumacher and Hill collided to put both men out of the race and leave Schumacher as world champion. "This time we will strengthen our suspension."

Frank Williams, the team owner, said yesterday.

Schumacher has taken the chequered flag 26 times in all, a ratio of better than one victory for every four drives. His next win will move him level with Jackie Stewart into fourth place behind Alain Prost (5), the late Ayrton Senna (4) and Nigel Mansell (3) in the all-time standings.

"I will go on for as long as I have fun," Schumacher said. "I do not feel any more pressure about the remaining races this season than at any other time. It brings the best out of me when I am challenged. I do not have anything to lose. I have already done more than people expected this season."

As for last week, he believes that a lighting system should be installed in the cars so that instructions, such as the

yellow flag, can be signalled electronically. "Everybody will imagine that I am professional enough to see the yellow flag, but obviously I did not," he said.

Schumacher considers his victory here two years ago as perhaps the best of his career. Passing first Hill and then squeezing alongside Jean Alesi at the chicane before slipping through, the win helped him to retain his title. It also re-established the Nürburgring in the schedule after an absence of ten years.

The original circuit had been closed down in 1976 after the life-threatening accident involving Niki Lauda. Work on a new, shorter track began the following year, but it was not used for Formula One until 1984 and was taken off the calendar again the next year.

"There are some challenging corners and not many opportunities to overtake," Schumacher said. Indeed, last season, from third on the grid, he proved unable to pass Villeneuve, who went on to win.

Yesterday both Frank Williams and Cesare Fiorio, sporting director of the Prost team, quashed rumours that Villeneuve intends to switch from Williams to Prost next season. Villeneuve is widely expected to take up his option with Williams, who have yet to announce their line-up for 1998.

David Richards, head of the Subaru rally team, was yesterday appointed as managing director of the Benetton Formula One team. He takes over from Flavio Briatore, who is leaving "to pursue other interests".

E-mail SOS gets Turner started

Edward Gorman
on the high-tech
mayday call
that saved a
sailor in distress

E-MAIL is a wonderful thing. Mark Turner would not be starting the Mini-Transat single-handed transatlantic yacht race with 51 other intrepid skippers from Brest in France tomorrow had he not used it to magical effect two weeks ago.

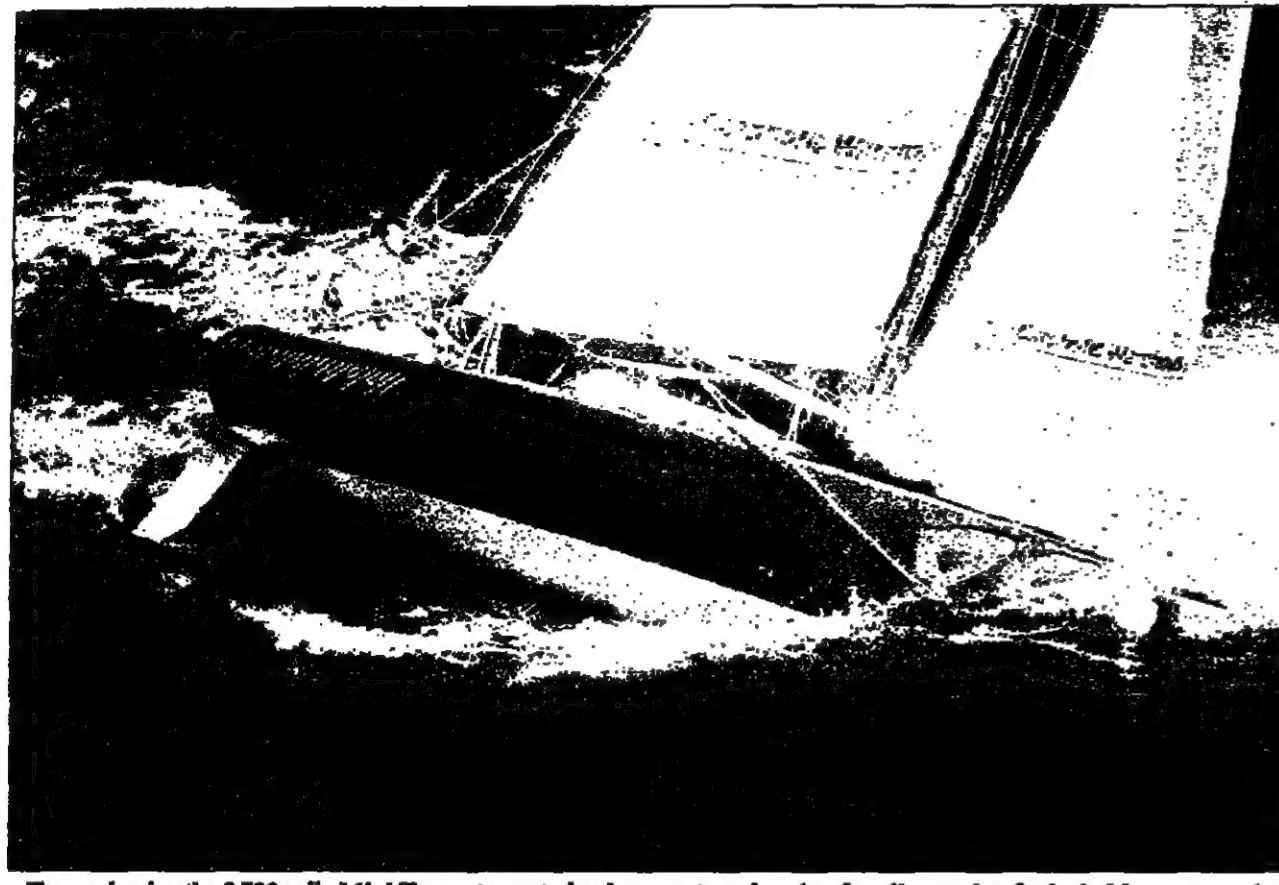
Turner had found himself living his worst nightmare. Having spent more than £35,000 of borrowed money over the past 12 months preparing his 21ft Mini-class yacht, he had her lifted out of the water for a final pre-start inspection, only to discover serious structural cracks around the keel joint.

The verdict from the boatyard at La Trinité was that the damage was too extensive to repair in the time remaining. Turner was told that if he set off in that boat on the 1,200-mile first leg to Tenerife, he could find himself without a keel in the middle of the Bay of Biscay.

Getting a single-handed campaign together is hard enough without this kind of cruel luck. Turner, who had already struggled just to get the boat qualified for the race after sustaining serious damage during the Mini-Fastnet earlier this summer, was understandably distraught.

His mood was unmistakable in the e-mail he sent out to everyone in his computer address book, as he desperately searched for help. "After a terrible day of risk analysis, questions, looking at options, trying to find a yard to repair in time etc, I'm still blocked in. No solution in time seems possible," he wrote. He went on to explain that the only possible way out was to try to hire one of two Minis not already going in the race. But he needed money to do that, and fast.

Among those who received the message was Hugh Morrison, a director of Financial Dynamics, a City-based financial and corporate communications consultancy. Turner had never met him but Morri-



Turner begins the 3,700-mile Mini-Transat race today in an untested yacht after discovering faults in his own vessel

son, a keen sailor, had been keeping an eye on both Turner and fellow Briton, Ellen MacArthur, as they prepared for the single-handed classic.

To Turner's amazement, Morrison responded immediately, writing a cheque for £9,000, which enabled negotiations to begin on hiring the new boat. Morrison was not the only one. Carphone Warehouse, an existing sponsor of both Turner and MacArthur, immediately chipped in with another £4,000, while Turner found himself inundated with offers of assistance and encouragement. Among those who wrote cheques on the spot was the race favourite, Thomas Coville, who lent Turner £10,000 (about £10,000).

The past week has been frantic for Turner as he attempted to transfer as much equipment as possible to the new boat, as he prepares for the biggest race of his life in an unfamiliar yacht. He has barely sailed it yet but was encouraged by good speed in light airs during the five-mile prologue race at Brest on Wednesday.

Until now Turner has given the impression of being unsure whether the 3,700-mile single-handed 'marathon' to Martinique was really going to be his cup of tea. Now that he has had to fight tooth and nail just to get to the start, he realises just how committed he is to it and is again toying with the idea of attempting a Vendée Globe campaign when the Mini-Transat is over.

In his original boat, Turner was a candidate for a top-five finish. Yesterday he was still sounding optimistic about his chances, despite the obvious disadvantages. "I haven't sailed the boat and to do well you need to do a lot of miles on the water, but I know from the prologue I've got boat speed and a top-five finish is definitely still possible," he said.

MacArthur, meanwhile, starts after a comparatively smooth preparation and after two creditable eighth places in the Mini-Fastnet and the Trans-Cascoigne. Once she has the Mini-Transat under her belt, her next objective will be the Around Alone round-the-world race next year.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

CRWTH

(4) An ancient stringed instrument, plucked and bowed. Stretched over a rectangular frame, the lower half forming a sound-board. In one part of the frame the left hand was used to "stop" the strings. In later instruments there was a finger-board over which four strings could be stopped. In parts of Wales a violin is called a crwth. Likewise in England a fiddler is sometimes called a crowder. Lastly the misleading name "bowed harp" has been applied.

BLACK FIVE

(4) A mixed traffic locomotive, designed by Stanier in 1934, for the LMS. It was to meet the needs of Operations Superintendent, J. H. Follies. "Can go anywhere, do anything." It could handle heavy freight and fast passenger trains, power class 5 for each. It was 44-0 and painted black, distinct from a broadly similar express loco painted red. Spoken of as "the loco that won the war". 852 were built for LMS/BR.

HORNS REEF

(4) A significant feature in the Battle of Jutland. If the High Seas Fleet could get beyond round, it was free. "Scheer's bold resolution to act in a manner the enemy thought impossible had upset the British C-in-C's calculations. The breakthrough towards Horns Reef had succeeded. The enemy dared not follow." German Official History.

GLANDERS

(4) A horse disease. King's Regulations, 1936: "When an animal used for army purposes, kept on Crown premises and in any veterinary charge, dies of, or is slaughtered for, glanders, the carcass will be disposed of in accordance with Regulations for Army Veterinary Services. Whenever the local authorities are disposed to assist, their co-operation should be accepted."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rf4 and if 2 Nxb6 f6 is checkmate

GOLD MINE

THE STANDARD IN ALES

A touch of the old magic

Friends
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Tonight's episode could show *Seinfeld* a thing or two about making something out of nothing. Joey and Rachel swap favourite books (*The Shining* and *Little Women* respectively) to see which one ends up in the freezer (don't ask) while Phoebe, famed for her ability to pick up weird guys, brings home a man for whom "baffly" takes on a whole new meaning. Meanwhile, in the main storyline, Tom Selleck reappears as Richard, Monica's older brother. Selleck, the big chap with the macho moustache who used to play Magnum, did himself and the series a huge favour when he became a regular guest. He brought a solid masculinity to the daff antics of the sextet. Tonight, sans moustache, he pops back into Monica's life, reminding that old black magic.

Shooting Stars
BBC2, 9.30pm

Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer are an acquired taste, a taste acquired so firmly that they were celebrated by last Monday's *Omnibus* and their game show won both a Bafta and a Comedy Award. Neither spoof nor outright homage but something in between, *Shooting Stars* marries broad vaudeville humour to surreal nonsense. The guests on the first of the new series fall into the usual Reeves/Mortimer required categories: some lovely lady, some pop icon (usually from the 1970s: somebody funny and somebody else). The format is promised to be much the same as last time with favourite rounds such as the Dove from Above and True or False? 1950s throwback Mark Lammert and the water-thin Lillita Jonsson captain teams made up of Tanya Byer, Mariella Frostrup, Antony Worrall Thompson and Leo Sayer.

Fraser
Channel 4, 10.00pm

Afficionados have long known the real star of the show is Eddie the dog. His marathon silent stunts are the perfect foil for those loquacious clever dogs, the Crane brothers. But even the dearest of deadpan dogs can have an off day and Eddie is causing concern. So Martin calls in a dog psychologist, something that pushes our two



Bing Crosby is on song (BBC1, 10.20pm)

human shrinks into seering hyperdrive. The diagnosis is that the dog is picking up miserable vibes at home, plunging into deep depression. The best moment is when we hear the world through Eddie's ears (unintelligible mumbling punctuated by "Eddie") contrasted with what Martin hears when his sons are in mid-flow (psychobabble interspersed with "Dad"). Yes, well, it is much funnier than it reads.

Parkinson: the Interviews
BBC1, 10.20pm

The normally expansive and relaxed Parkinson displays some unusual body language during this 1972 chat to Bing Crosby. His arms are crossed over his chest and his knees are pressed together. Whether this means that Parly was nervous in front of the man who was one of the biggest draws in showbiz for 50 years or if he just did not want to hug him, he is not saying. Bing offers us an array of gentle anecdotes of musicians: Bob Hope and golf, interspersed with gentle songs and gentle film clips. If one gets bored (and one should not) there is always the "He Was On My Radio Show" game, where Bing, asked to comment on anyone at all, will eventually utter this line somewhere in the proceedings. The interview with Bette Midler, which was supposed to be shown tonight, was considered too raunchy for a nation in mourning. It shows next week.

Fraser's Last

RADIO CHOICE

Old Stubborn Guts—Creative Spirits
Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

I do my best to limit the bleating about programmes transmitted on FM only to accommodate *Daily Service* on long wave but this is just the kind of programme that I get letters about from people who cannot receive an FM signal. It is a new five-part series about the work of Studds Terkel, one of the most enlightening and indeed entertaining chroniclers of life 20th-century America. Terkel, 85 years old, is still broadcasting in Chicago and his archive contains more than 9,000 hours of interviews, all the way back to the 1930s. The most memorable recordings involve not celebrities—though he has interviewed plenty of those—but ordinary people: Terkel's gift is to prize open the memory without badgering.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 12.20pm Newsbeat 12.45 Jo Whiley 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Pete Tong: Essential Selection 10.00 *On the Border* 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ian Bruce 11.30 *At the Movies* 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Denis O'Reilly Shares the Best of Times 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night: Ian Sutherland conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra from the Hippodrome, Golden Lane, London with Tony Award-winning Smith 8.30 Three Wives in Search of a Character: John Florance discusses writing about Elvis Presley with Gail Marcus, Peter Guralnick and June Juanico 9.15 The Tailor of Panama 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 The Arts Programme. Sheridan Morley talks to the American writer Gore Vidal 12.00am Charlie Nowe 4.00 Denise Lush Jordan

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.00 The Midge 11.00am *Footballer's Diary* 1.30pm *Footballer's Diary* with Alan Robb 2.00 Golf: The 1997 Ryder Cup. Further coverage from Valderrama 7.00 News Extra 7.30 SportsTalk: 8.30 Friday Sport. Includes second-half commentary from Norwich City v Ipswich Town 10.00 Paper Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours with Paul Harcourt and Sheila McKeown 2.00am All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 9.00 Scott Chinham 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tony Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Mo'z Dee's Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Didd

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Parcell (My Beloved Spoke), Grieg (Peer Gynt Suite No 1); Elgar (La Capricieuse); Rimsky-Korsakov (Overture Russian Easter Festival); Verdi (La Forza del Destino, excerpts); Germain (Suite Calish Row)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Stravinsky (Fireworks); Grieg (Lyric Pieces); Brahms (Symphony No 2 in A)
10.00 Musical Synopses, with Nicola Heywood. Includes Villa-Lobos (Carillone), Bachiana Brasileira No 5; Matruh (Concerto for Orchestra); Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 13 in C minor); Churchill, air Hest (Passions Kaumain On)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Pizzetti
1.00pm News; Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Brindell Quartet, Shostakovich (String Quartet No 11); Mozart (String Quartet in E flat)
2.00 The BBC Archive. Leopold Stokowski made his first appearance with the LSO in 1912. Sixty years later he delighted London audiences with a repeat performance of the original concert. Wagner (Overture Die Meistersinger); Debussy (Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un Faune); Glazunov (Violin Concerto in A minor); 2.50 Fantasia on Stokowski. Archive sounds and souvenirs 3.00 Concert part two. Brahms (Symphony No 1 in C minor); Tchaikovsky (March Slave)
4.00 Music Revisited. From the York Early Music Festival, a concert given by Rose Consort of Viola and Christopher Wilson, lute. Dowland

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.45 A Boy at the Hoplite. Richard Kennedy's classic memoir (5/5) 8.58 Weather
9.00 News; 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley's casting this week is the director and writer Mike Leigh (1)
9.45 Feedback. Chris Dunley asks listeners' opinions
10.00 News; Old Stubborn Guts (FM). See Choice
10.10 An Act of War (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Women's Hour, with Diana Macll
11.30 The Natural History Programme. Presented by Joanna Freese
12.00 You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker
12.25pm Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures. Derek Cooper explores the inner workings of a bassline 12.55 Weather (1)
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 Classic Serial: Lorna Doone, R.D. Blackmore's romantic novel, adapted by Barry Letts (2/3) (1)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News; 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow considers the history of the Cardiff Opera House's lottery bid and talks to Welsh landscape painters about how they capture their own countryside
4.45 Short Story: The Stranger, by Molly MacCloskey, read by Jeremy Gethra (1)
5.00 PM. Introduced by Chris Lowe 5.30 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News, with David Stafford. Includes the Marquess of Bath paying tribute to Stonehenge
7.00 News; 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week, with Chris Seres
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical discussion in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, with Professor Susan Greenfield and Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
8.50 Three Writers in Search of a Character. John Florence discusses writing about Elva Presley with Gail Marcus, Peter Guralnick and June Juanico (4/4)
9.15 Letter from America, by Alastair Cooke
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. Tim Marlow tracks the story of Picasso's *Guernica* (1)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Littering with Intent. Anna Massey reads Muriel Spark's comic novel, bridged by Neville Teller (5/10)
11.00 Do Go On, with Ainsley Elliot, Jeff Dodman, Giff Rhys Jones and Christine Garden (4/4)
11.25 Ten Junction, with Patrick Harman
11.45 Beyond the Millennium. Six visionaries think Professor Lynda Gratton how life will be in 2010. Business School from the London
12.00 News; 12.30am The Late Bookers' Light August, by William Faulkner (5/12)
12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.9-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 86.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 698, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 649. LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamee.

Funny, but unamusing, how things turn out

I should have known better than to joke here the other day about bad 1970s sitcoms being spilt over to UK Gold. In *Dad*, BBC1 seems to have taken the bold step of commissioning brand new comedies which are already ten years out of date and which can thus be given repeats on the Classics on Cable stations without having to wait while the series matures in TV Centre's vault.

In fact, and as if to point up the classic lines along which *Dad* is constructed, the first episode started with the sort of 1970s flashback which has costume staff running about in glee, arguing about how long Noddy Holder's sideburns were and telling each other how they've just discovered a wonderful new source of round-collared shirts.

The premise is that 18-year-old Vincent's father, Alan, is too daddish in that way that the 40-year-old fathers of teenage boys are

nowadays, and that Alan's father, Brian, is too daddish in that entirely different way that the 60-year-old fathers of 40-year-old men are.

What we have here are three generations of comedy clichés: like *The Forryte Saga* but without that work's lightness of spirit. Vincent counts the ways of his father's daddishness — *Ready Brek*, *Top of the Pops* white socks, *The Sunday Times* — while Alan looks to the heavens whenever his own father does one of his own anally retentive deeds.

I mean, which of the various theories of the decline of British comedy do you want me to recite here? Who at the BBC watched this and thought it funny? Which executive didn't think to mention that when it comes to the role reversal line about how the fogeyish teenage son is pushing his bearded father to take out life insurance, *Family Ties* did it better and with more conviction, ten

years ago? Was it the same executive who forbore to point out that when you have characters say lines such as "Who else gets up at that time except for GMTV presenters and people on dangerous medication?", they will almost certainly run out of breath in an attempt to give the line that desperate "Look — this is funny, right?" comedy intonation?

How does the BBC choose its comedies? It sees the American *Seinfeld* and *Larry Sanders* and knows enough to buy them in and bill them as very funny programmes — albeit much too funny for BBC1 prime time — but the programmes it commissions are *Dad* and *Pilgrims Rest* and, God help us all, *Oh, Dr Beeching!*

This is not pro-American snobbery, either: there are good British comedies around, although the fact that Channel 4 is repeating the

REVIEW



John Diamond

time-fade *Drop The Dead Donkey* and BBC2 the equally not-topical *Have I Got News For You* suggests that nobody knows where to look for them.

There was something of a vintage feel to *The Locksmith* (BBC1), too, albeit in vintage wine rather than vintage cheese. Stephen Bill's six-parter takes its time deciding what it wants to be — black comedy, odd-couple story or real-

life fable for our times — but by the end of the first episode this seemed attractive quirkiness rather than directorial indecision.

Warren Clarke plays Roland, the worm who turns, a bore with a heart of gold who has just taken on his scally young cousin as a junior in his locksmithing company. We know Barry (Chris Gascoyne) is a scally because he wears matching sweat-washed denim jeans and jacket, but there is something engaging about his innocent sexual monomania.

In Roland's unspecified Midlands town there is a thief who has perfected a way of getting through locked front doors without leaving a mark. He's good, in fact, that we know the locksmith himself will be accused of the thefts eventually.

I have to say, I normally give pretty short shrift to those official commentators in the police and coroners' services who are for ever

complaining that the television demonstrates clever ways to top yourself or another, but I was slightly perturbed by the regular demonstrations of the thief's skill. It's quite possible that this is a real way of breaking into a house at all, but it looks convincing enough for somebody to give it a go.

Whatever: one night the thief breaks into the home of Roland's former wife and the mother of the daughter who is now avoiding him. In the ensuing fight she is beaten into a coma; Roland is arrested for the crime and then released. We know all this will happen because the opening scenes are shot through with dramatic irony — "I'll kill you!" shouts Roland in front of more witnesses than is decent — like nuts in a bar of nougat.

But then this episode was obviously there to get some of the necessary dramatic driftwood out

of the way — the estranged daughter, the unlikely sidekick, the motivating comatose wife — so that Roland can get on with his promised vigilante in the remaining five episodes.

I can't quite work out which dramatic mood the series will run with, though. There was a moment in the first episode where, with Roland locked up for the crime he didn't commit, everything went all Kafka for a few minutes. But then — whoosh! — he's out of the nick, and the mood changes. On the other hand, if this does become the sort of heavy-duty, *This Time It's Personal* series which the BBC publicity, with its image of Roland looking sternly through a keyhole, suggests, what happens to Barry and his high jinks?

Perhaps this will turn out to be the first ever comedy vigilante show which, if nothing else, will be original. BBC comedy department, take note.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (62997)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (98887607)
9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (2525404)
9.30 Sky Challenge (1363404)
9.55 Kilroy (T) (5312065)

10.35 Change That From Cheltenham (1455591)
11.00 News (T) and weather (4774959)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (T) (9174978)

11.35 Room for Improvement: Killybeg Castle, a detached cottage and a tree house receive a spruce-up (T) (2355978)

12.00 News (T) and weather (6287851)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (9515572)
12.35 Going for a Song (9428133)

1.00 News (T) and weather (53978)
1.30 Regional News (T) (17322959)
1.40 The Weather Show (T) (97270572)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (707355)

2.15 Quinny (T) (4254794)
3.00 Through the Keyhole (7779220)
3.25 The Really Useful Show Update (7434830)

3.30 Playdays (8091007) 3.50 Dear Mr Barker (1428220) 4.05 The All New Popeye Show (T) (3561997) 4.10 Casper (4505997) 4.35 Record Breakers. New series with Cheryl Barker (6599338) 5.00 Newsworld (T) (5994572) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (5990268)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (T) (554881)
6.00 News (T) and weather (607)
6.30 Regional News (T) (959)

7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson. Featuring the hotel which is proving to be the cause of one or two headaches for British tourists; and tips on driving a hard bargain when renting a car (T) (4794)

7.30 Top of the Pops (T) (171)
8.00 Venus in Practice. After six months in practice, Emma and Hannah have doubts about their jobs and Joe has an intriguing case that the client can't afford to pay for (T) (3442)

8.30 Children's Hospital. Featuring eight-year-old Liberty, admitted with a liver cyst; four-year-old Heather, who has a bead from an earring lodged in her ear and ten-year-old Kelsey, who has lost the ability to speak (T) (9249)

9.00 News (T) and weather (1201)
9.30 Dangerfield: Happy Families. Paul draws closer to DS Helen Diamond, but his social life is disrupted when a friend's workmate drowns in mysterious circumstances (T) (436171)

10.20 Parkinson: The Interviews. Michael Parkinson introduces his interview with Bing Crosby (T) (126442)

11.00 The Mean Machine (1974) with Burt Reynolds and Eddie Albert. Tough action-comedy-drama set in a prison. Directed by Robert Aldrich (235442)

1.20am Hands of the Ripper (1971) with Eric Porter and Angela Rouse. Jack the Ripper's daughter feels his spirit has taken her over and drives her to kill. Directed by Peter Sasuly (1852114)

2.45 Weather (7883351)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: A Return to the Summit (4302807) 6.25 Wrapping Up the Thames (548471)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (4252862)

7.30 The Adventures of Skipper (T) (6350639)
7.55 Cartoon Critters (T) (5355317)
8.20 William's Wish Wellingtons (T) (4348143) 8.25 Wishing (T) (7005171) 8.35 Teletubbies (T) (1937807) 9.00 Cartoon (4767355)

9.10 Music Makers (3707048) 9.30 Watch (9454978) 9.45 Come Outside (9442133) 10.00 Teletubbies (50571) 10.30 Look and Read (8805317) 10.50 The Art (881888) 11.10 Landmarks (2929713) 11.30 English File (4256) 12.00 Scene (83369)

12.30pm Working Lunch (29881) 1.00 The Little Polar Bear (T) (7333655) 1.05 Pingu (T) (7333762) 1.10 The Craft Hour (4434828)

2.10 Quinny (T) (4254794) — SNP live coverage from Rothsay, including a speech by their Parliamentary leader, Maggie Ewing (1520510)

2.45 News (T) regional news and weather (1788959)

2.50 Plead Cymru Conference Live coverage from Aberystwyth (5920406)

3.25 News (T) (4732572) 3.30 Real Rooms (T) (8332201) 3.55 Consuming Passions (850336) 4.00 Ready, Steady Cook (5172) 4.30 Going, Going, Gone (6598607) 4.55 Esther: Single is not sad (3293238) 5.30 Today's Day (335)

6.00 Star Trek (T) (T) (313268)
6.50 Volcano Stories (133133)

7.00 The Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race (2336)

7.30 Top Gear Motorsport: The Rally of Indonesia (713)

8.00 The Big Catch. The giant blue marlin, off Madras (T) (1084)

8.30 Ground Force. Alan Titchmarsh and his team set about modernising a dilapidated garden in Surrey (T) (1161)

9.00 Red Dwarf. Rimmer faces a huge dilemma (T) (T) (2171)

9.30 Shooting Stars. The return of the Bob Mortimer and Vic Reeves celebrity quiz show (T) (15317)

10.00 Pick and Mix. Classic clips from the BBC's comedy archive (T) (807607)

10.20 Newsnight (T) (481881)

11.18 Volcano Stories (226084)

11.20 Golf: The Ryder Cup. Steve Rider presents highlights from the first day (31607)

12.20am VR 5 Sci-Fi drama series (6413027)

1.05 Roulton 2 (1991) Manga animation with the voices of Alan Wagner and Toni Barry (766469)

2.15 Weather (1482553)

2.55 News (1482553)

3.00 News (1482553)

3.15 News (1482553)

3.30 News (1482553)

3.45 News (1482553)

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5.00 News (1482553)

5.15 News (1482553)

5.30 News (1482553)

5.45 News (1482553)

6.00 News (1482553)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (7188423)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (2521888)
9.55 Regional News (1088249)

10.00 The Time, the Place (34355)
10.30 This Morning (T) (18889162)
12.20pm Regional News (323065)

12.30 News (T) and weather (9414930)
12.55 WALKS: Grass Roots (9439249)
1.25 Dogs with Dunder (9439249)

1.55 Home and Away (T) (5815610)
1.50 Murder, She Wrote (T) (3363794)
2.00 WALKS: The Pulse (T) (6733423)

2.50 Garden Calendar (T) (6734223)
3.20 News (T) (4760355)
3.25 Regional News (T) (4769628)

3.30 Jays' World (T) (1419572) 3.40 Titch (T) (525404) 3.50 Oscar and Friends (7258898) 4.00 Roger and the Rotter (T) (2559521) 4.15 Hurricanes (T) (4589336) 4.40 Fun House (T) (7189423)

5.10 A Country Practice (2338404)
5.40 News (T) and weather (704959)
6.00 Home and Away (T) (571084)

6.25 HTV Weather (457065)
6.30 HTV News (T) (355)
7.00 Bruce's Price is Right (T) (9862)

7.30 Coronation Street (T) (539)
8.00 The Bill. Nick Slater goes undercover as a drug dealer (T) (9510)

8.30 Strange Bedfellows. Michael Aeppli presents a special edition which tells the story of a soldier trained by the American army as a psychic spy (T) (4317)

9.00 Brian Conley — Alive and Dangerous. The comedian recorded at the Wyndham Theatre, where he reprises a medley of favourite characters from his television specials (T) (T) (3539)

10.00 News (T) and weather (68794)
10.30 Regional News (955771)

10.40 WALKS: Blow Out (1981) with John Travolta, Nancy Allen and John Lithgow. Thriller about a sound man accidentally recording vital evidence when a prominent senator's car plunges into a river. Directed by Brian De Palma (5925595)

10.40 Late and Live. Ann Widdecombe and Vic Chis show. Ann Widdecombe MP, is this week's guest (9023713)

12.10am Short Story Cinema (3252843)
12.40 The Paul Ross Show (557331)
2.10 Stacy's Knights (1983) with Kevin Costner, Andrea Millan and Eve Lith. Comedy drama set in the world of professional gambling. Directed by Jim Wilson (332982)

3.50 Movie Club (T) (79659805) 4.15 Jones and Judy (T) (2958308) 4.35 Coach (T) (3120217) 5.00 Coronation Street (T) (T) (50824) 5.30 News

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CENTRAL

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12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9439249)
2.50-3.20 Surprise Chefs (9439249)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2338404)

6.25-7.00 Central News (938981)
6.40 Central Weekend Live (9023713)
12.10am Campus Cops. American sitcom starring Ben Bode and Ryan Hurst (328264)

2.10 The Lads (3472027)
2.40 Box Office America (8262669)
3.05 Baywatch (9259669)
3.50 Heiter Steifer (4509973)

4.40 Central Jobfinder '97 (4257583)
5.20 Asian Eye (1885718)

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2.50-3.2

